Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you intend to visit the Taste of the Marianas anytime this month?

Yes	99
No	51
Maybe	28

Sunday, May 6, 2012

INSIDE

LOCAL

Hundreds converge on the back lot of NMC for its Charter Day festivities. ➤ PAGE 3

ASIA

The in-laws of an abused Afghan child bride are sent to prison. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Lots of superheroes add up to lots of money for "The Avengers." ➤ PAGE 20

Govt again overspends by at least $2M. PAGE 2
'There's still chance for long-term alien workers' PAGE 5

US Trustee also wants Fund Chapter 11 petition junked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» 7 appointed to committee of creditors
» At least 4 other motions filed

The U.S. Trustee has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to dismiss the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching echoed the position of two unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen that the Fund's structure and statutory existence makes it clear that it is a "governmental unit" of the CNMI.

Ching said that under Title 11, a debtor must be a "person" in order to be eligible to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and

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World spotlight on bankruptcy filing

» First US public pension fund to seek bankruptcy protection
» Fitial asks US Social Security for help, supports withdrawal of bankruptcy petition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI gained national press attention for having the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to seek bankruptcy protection, serving as a litmus

See BANKRUPTCY on Page 4

Marines start arriving on Tinian Wednesday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some 100 of the estimated over 200 U.S. Marines from Japan are set to arrive on Tinian this Wednesday in what could be the largest military exercise and perhaps the start of a permanent presence on the island, decades after Tinian played a decisive role to end World War II.

Don Farrell, a CNMI historian and the Tinian mayor's point man on military affairs, said yesterday that "Exercise Geiger Fury MAG-12 is a go this week." MAG-12 stands for Marine Aircraft Group-12.

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PROMISING TALENTS

Pacific Flower's Tyler Matsumoto, center, raises his woven basket after tossing all the flowers it contained during one of their dance numbers at the opening night of the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park last Saturday. This year marks the 14th anniversary of the flagship event of Marianas Visitors Authority, which aims to promote the perennial theme that "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story and more photos on Pages 6 and 14

Local

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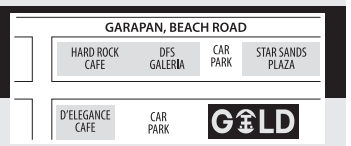

DURING FIRST HALF OF FY 2012

CNMI govt again overspends on referrals, utilities by at least $2M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government exceeded again its spending cap for medical referrals and utilities by at least $2 million during the first half of fiscal year 2012, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said, citing preliminary figures.

In terms of revenue, the government collected around $50 million during the first half of the year, which, Inos said, is just about right given a $102 million budget for fiscal year 2012.

The estimated $2 million in overspending consists of about $1 million for medical referrals and another $1 million in utilities, said Inos, who oversees government finances.

Inos cited as an example the government's $5 million spending cap on utilities for 2012 or $2.5 million for each half. That should have been some $416,000 in utilities spending every month. Instead, the government spent an average of $600,000 a month on utilities during the first half of 2012, Inos said. This easily exceeded the monthly budget by $184,000 or over $1.1 million in six months.

Inos said the financial report should be ready for submission to the Legislature soon.

"We're not saying that we expect to get more—at least we're not at that point where we can make a statement yet," he said.

The governor has until July 1 to submit a supplemental budget. That's the same day when Saipan Air is to launch its inaugural flight that the Fitial administration, the Legislature, and the business community are expecting to boost tourism arrivals and help improve the local economy.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and other lawmakers said they are looking forward to seeing the actual financial report covering the first six months of fiscal year 2012 or from October to March.

Basa said the report would also help guide his committee as it deliberates on the fiscal year 2013 budget. The Ways and Means Committee will continue this week its budget hearings on the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and the Judiciary.

In fiscal year 2011, the government reported a $25.8 million deficit when it spent $25.241 million over its projected revenue and a shortfall of some $565,000. This, despite 16-hour work cuts, unpaid holidays and other austerity measures that the Fitial administration put in place purportedly for the government to be able to live within its means.

The initial $2 million in deficit that Inos was talking about included only those for utilities and medical referrals.

Defendants deny conspiracy to defraud PH bank

A couple who co-owned a defunct remittance center have asserted that they had no knowledge of a conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank.

Haydn L. Villegas, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, said neither he nor Ana Maria V. Villegas were aware that co-defendant Armilaine Salamat was falsifying their company's books.

Ms. Villegas did not request Salamat to do so, nor did she request Salamat to illegally wire the money, said Bellas in Mr. Villegas' motion to exclude alleged co-conspirator statements.

"Even if the court believes there is evidence to support Ms. Villegas' knowledge of the conspiracy, the same cannot be said for Mr. Villegas," Bellas said.

The lawyer said that before admitting a statement of a co-conspirator into evidence against a defendant, the court must have independent evidence of the existence of the conspiracy and the defendant's connection to it. He said the court must conclude that the statement was made during and in furtherance of the conspiracy.

"Nothing that has been disclosed to Mr. Villegas suggests he was aware of specific conversations between his wife and Ms. Salamat," Bellas said.

Bellas added that the admissibility of such statements, however, even for the limited purpose of inculpating Ms. Villegas, would have a prejudicial effect on Mr. Villegas.

Bellas said the evidence must either be excluded entirely or Mr. Villegas must be given a separate trial from Ms. Villegas.

Salamat used to serve as manager of PNB Express, which was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank.

In June 2010, Salamat pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. She is currently awaiting sentencing.

In Mr. Villegas' motion, Bellas said there are a number of statements made by Ms. Villegas and Salamat—both of whom are alleged coconspirators in the case—that should be excluded.

Bellas said a threshold issue of admissibility of coconspirator statements is whether a conspiracy actually existed.

"The facts as presented are completely void of evidence that would support a finding of conspiracy, particularly as to Mr. Villegas," the lawyer said.

When interviewed by an FBI special agent and an assistant U.S. attorney, Bellas said, one of the alleged co-conspirators—Salamat—stated that she "did not have an agreement with Ms. Villegas" to cover the costs of bad checks.

Bellas said Salamat further stated that she "never received anything of value from Ms. Villegas" and "only falsified records in the daily proofsheets to avoid being fired." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMC celebrates 31st Charter Day, presents awards

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Hundreds of Northern Marianas College students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members converged on the college's extensive back lot on Friday for NMC's Charter Day festivities, which also kicked off the NMC Month celebration this May.

"I've now been here for approximately 10 months and have enjoyed every moment of my time here at the college," said NMC president Sharon Hart in her remarks.

Through the steadfast efforts of its faculty and staff, NMC can now be perceived "not only being a provider of educational opportunity but an educational provider that leads to work here in the CNMI and beyond," Hart said.

She pointed out that NMC continues to have a number of wonderful opportunities and activities for all students—no matter their age—more than 30 years since then governor Carlos S. Camacho signed Executive Order No. 25 that created the institution.

"I truly believe that this is an institution has so much to offer and I know that one of the ways on how we have been successful is due to the leadership of our fine leaders," said the president.

The event opened with the singing of the national anthem by the college's own Proa Music Society. Friday's event also saw the signing of the proclamation that designated May as NMC Month. NMC's Amber Mendiola read the proclamation signed by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Members of the House of Representatives led by Speaker Eli Cabrera also presented Hart with a commemorative resolution. A separate resolution was presented by Sen. Jovita Taimanao.

More than a dozen recognition awards were also presented to faculty, staff, and alumni of the college in celebration of Charter Day festivities.

These awards were bestowed on "individuals at NMC who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the college and who have exhibited dedication to student learning, provided a high quality of service, and demonstrated initiative and positive work attitude in their everyday work environment."

Recognized were Alumnus of the Year awardee, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, who "has expressed that education starting with NMC has prepared him for his career path"; Student of the Year Keolester Buenpacifico, Supervisor of the Year Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Non-instructional Faculty of the Year Judy Deleon Guerrero Torres, and Instructional Faculty of the Year Charlotte Cepeda. Each awardee received a "small cash prize," a plaque, and a much-coveted parking space for the year.

Other awards presented were Donor of the Year to Tan Siu Lin Foundation; Farmer of the Year to James Matsumoto; and Dean's Farmer's Recognition Award to Inez Rabago Guerrero.

College staff who volunteered to take on additional work without pay for the spring semester were also acknowledged. Among them were King Palacios, Oscar Flores, Frankie Eliptico, Hervin Jacinto, Velma Deleon Guerrero, James Revilla, Aileen Babauta, Daisy Mae Camacho, Theresa Sablan, Zenaida Javier, Leo Pangelinan, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Barbara Hunter, Bobbie Marfalen, Raymond Muna, Lorraine Cabrera, Amanda Allen, and John Cook.

In an interview after the program, Hart said that the Charter Day celebration is also an opportunity for the public to see the institution up close and "hopefully decide that this is where they want to pursue more education."

She commended the committee for working tirelessly to ensure an event that everyone can enjoy. "I'm the one up here but in reality, I'm the one behind the scenes…So really, they're the individuals I want to say thank you to because without them, none of this would be possible," added Hart.

Trophies and certificates were also presented to the winners of the various games and competitions.

'Detectives not abandoning the Romero investigation'

Police detectives are not abandoning the investigation into the murder of bartender Emerita Relata Romero, according to the chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Police Capt. Lawrence Camacho in an interview last week assured the public and the family of Romero that they are still working on the case.

"We have not abandoned it," said Camacho, who refused to elaborate.

Saturday marked the third month when Romero was last seen alive after boarding a car in Garapan. Her body was found by FBI agents at the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque in the afternoon of Feb. 7.

When asked if the results of the FBI laboratory's examination are already out, the CIB chief said he can't comment as investigation is still ongoing.

Former DPS commissioner Ramon Mafnas earlier disclosed that forensic examinations and assessments on all evidence are being performed on-island and off-island, saying the results can only strengthen the government's case.

Mafnas removed Camacho from CIB and assigned him to the DPS Training Section after the two had a confrontation during a briefing in the Romero case.

Just days after Mafnas was put on administrative leave as DPS commissioner, acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro reinstated Camacho to CIB. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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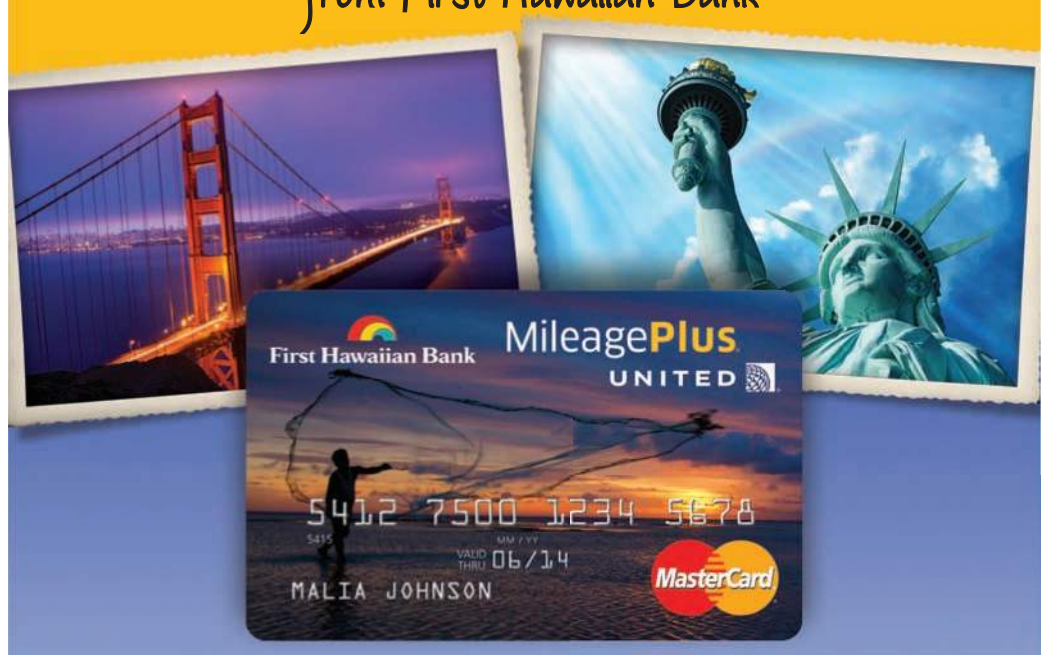

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Paintball firm hits bull's eye with go signal from Zoning

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

After hearing arguments from both sides, the Zoning board approved last Thursday the conditional use permit request of Top Shot Playstation, which plans to run a paintball business in Sadog Tasi.

The applicant will be allowed under certain conditions to start the outdoor amusement facility on track number 22616 REM. Only a third of the 48,000 square-meter-property will be used for the business, which can be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The affected area is zoned as rural.

The board also limited Top Shot Playstation's hours of operation from 8am to 5pm every day.

The company is also required to employ landscaping "where necessary" to screen from public view their parking lot and storage facilities, comply with storm water management requirements of the Division of Environmental Quality, provide netting surrounding the company property, and to employ "all reasonable measures" to ensure the safety of its players and the public.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Carolyn Hosono of Top Shot Playstation shows some of the gear and equipment that will be used at their proposed paintball facility during a Zoning public hearing last Thursday. The Zoning board approved the company's conditional use permit application.

Thursday's board meeting was attended by at least 23 community members. Owners John and Carolyn Hosono, along with their staff and family members, represented Top Shot Playstation while residents of nearby properties that oppose the application were led by John and Lupe Borja-Robinson.

The Hosonos said they decided to put up the paintball business as an additional tourist attraction on island and to support their family. The paintball facility also aims to encourage the public to become active and stay outdoors instead of idling in front of a television or computer.

Those opposed to the project argued that the business would disrupt the peace and quiet in their neighborhood due to the sound made by paintball guns and the traffic it would create in their small area. They also raised concerns about the impact of a paintball facility on the environment and the safety of residents.

Samples of paintball equipment and gear were brought by the applicant to the hearing. The applicant also demonstrated the use of a paintball gun to prove that it won't create noise pollution and that the paintballs are safe and environment-friendly.

Although the board voted unanimously on the application, they emphasized that the permit has conditions and they encouraged residents to monitor Top Shot Playstation to ensure that they follow the requirements or face the consequences.

Navy, Guam Shipyard work on lease for a ship repair facility

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced Friday that the U.S. Navy will begin exclusive negotiations with Guam Industrial Services Inc. (Guam Shipyard) on the terms of a 40-year long-term lease for performing ship repair, overhaul, and maintenance of vessels in Guam. The Guam Shipyard was the lone bidder for the lease contract.

"I am extremely encouraged that the Navy will enter into exclusive negotiations with the Guam Shipyard on a long-term lease for the former Ship Repair Facility, Guam," said Bordallo. "The announcement demonstrates the Navy's commitment to maintaining this critical ship repair capability and local workforce on Guam. I appreciate the efforts of Under Secretary Work and Assistant Secretary Pfannenstiel in working to ensure that the Navy's recent Request for Proposal for the lease and maintenance of the ship repair facility at the Naval Base took into consideration our community's concerns. This long-term lease will enable Guam Shipyard to make necessary investments in its facilities, thereby ensuring it can meet the growing requirements of the Navy, MSC, Coast Guard and other customers in the Western Pacific. I will continue to work with the Navy and the Guam Shipyard to ensure negotiations are fruitful." ***(PR)***

BANKRUPTCY

From Page 1

test for other troubled pension agencies across the globe.

The NMI Retirement Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 17.

Some national and regional media spoke of the CNMI's desperate situation, saying the government is now even considering leasing portions of Pagan Island where tsunami debris from Japan could be disposed of and recycled.

Although some news outlets inaccurately place the CNMI as somewhere in the South Pacific—instead of the Western Pacific where the Marianas Trench is—the attention they have been giving this U.S. territory is enough for other pension agencies across the globe to take notice.

The *Wall Street Journal, Forbes Magazine, Chicago Tribune* and other national and regional news organizations have covered the CNMI's ill-fated Retirement Fund for days and weeks.

"The Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean, managed to recover from brutal World War II battles, but its public pension fund could not recover from the financial crisis. The islands' retirement system is the first U.S. public pension fund to seek bankruptcy protection," wrote the *Wall Street Journal.*

No action yet

Since the NMI Retirement Fund's filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 17, the CNMI government has yet to collectively lessen the retirees and active members' concerns, although Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is now looking to the U.S. Social Security Administration for help and the Senate is proposing the creation of yet another body to review and recommend solutions to the pension agency crisis.

The Fitial administration is also "in support of withdrawing the bankruptcy petition," press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

The U.S. Trustee for the District of the CNMI filed a motion Friday for the bankruptcy case to be dismissed.

Some news outlets said the CNMI situation could have wide-ranging implications and could trigger a wave of bankruptcies among public pension agencies.

"It's a high-profile milestone out of a not-so-high-profile place," Newser wrote. "The Northern Mariana Islands' public pension fund sought bankruptcy protection last month, a notable move in that it's the first such U.S. fund to do so."

In a nutshell, the CNMI government had not paid enough money into the Retirement Fund yet burdened it with costly pension perks, including providing benefits to the surviving spouses of deceased retirees. It also allegedly obtained bad investment advice from its adviser, Bank of America Corp.'s Merrill Lynch, running the pension agency to the ground.

"It's giving us a big black eye," Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday, referring to the national media coverage that the CNMI is getting. He said it is "very sad and unfortunate" that the CNMI is in the limelight because of a crisis and not for a success story.

"As I always stated before, I wish the governor and the Legislature could work together to help the Fund. The mere filing of the bankruptcy shows the Fund board's loss of confidence in the governor's leadership to do something about the situation," Manglona said.

The Fitial administration said it is doing something to help the Fund.

"The governor and lieutenant governor have been in communication with SSA officials in an effort to discuss possible solutions relative to salvaging the pension program in the CNMI," the press secretary said.

Former representative and lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, a director of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, said the national attention that the CNMI has been getting "shows how serious the problem is."

"It's definitely alarming. This kind of media coverage is not welcome but it should wake up everybody who has the ability and the power to do everything to help," he said.

Forbes Magazine wrote, "What's happening in Northern Mariana Islands is no isolated phenomena. Merrill Lynch and the lead plaintiffs in a class action involving about 70 municipal pension plans in Florida together filed a proposed settlement recently seeking to end a dispute over whether the wirehouse breached its fiduciary duties as the investment consultant to these pensions."

MARINES

From Page 1

"The first high-speed vessel will arrive Wednesday. I believe it will have about 100 Marines," Farrell told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday.

More details about Operation Geiger Fury are expected this week.

"To the best of my knowledge, no expeditionary force has done permanent work on the island," Farrell told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Farrell said the training of U.S. Marines on Tinian is a historic moment, considering that it establishes a permanent presence of the Marine Corps in the Marianas.

"There's no other place left in the Western Pacific for this type of training," he said, adding that what was agreed upon during the signing of the U.S. Department of Defense's lease of two-thirds of Tinian is now coming to fruition.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense from the CNMI government.

Farrell said the Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the entire CNMI government must also be aware of the activities taking place and lend a hand as much as they can.

After unloading their vehicles, the Marines will proceed to North Field to establish their bivouac. The high-speed vessel will proceed to Japan and return with the rest of the 200 Marines. Full scale operations will begin immediately.

The Marines will begin leaving Tinian on or about June 3, with the final group leaving on June 10 to 11.

Execise Geiger Fury is happening while the U.S. and Japan governments are working on the details of an agreement to relocate some 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam as part of an $8.6-billion military realignment that could include the development of training ranges in Guam and Tinian in the CNMI.

Japan will pay $3.1 billion of the $8.6 billion cost of expanding military facilities in the Marianas.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration is upbeat about the impact from the renewed potential for relocation of Marines, while Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan said this should be an economic boon to the island of Guam which will, hopefully, result in an economic ripple effect throughout the CNMI.

The U.S. and Japan's agreement on a long-stalled plan to move troops off the island of Okinawa is a key part of the Obama administration's strategy to intensify its focus on Asia, and disperse American troops in the region.

FUND

From Page 1

may not, under the statutory definition, be a "governmental unit."

"As such, the [Fund] cannot be a "person" for purposes of Title 11 and is therefore ineligible to be a Chapter 11 debtor. This case must therefore be dismissed," Ching said in a 14-page motion.

The U.S. Trustee, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigation to enforce bankruptcy laws.

Jorgensen's co-counsel, Margery Bronster, earlier sought the dismissal of the bankruptcy petition, arguing that the Fund is a "governmental unit" and an "agency of the Commonwealth" and is therefore not a "person" eligible to file the petition under the Bankruptcy Code.

As this developed, Ching appointed Friday seven persons as members of a committee of creditors holding unsecured claims: Roman Tudela, Mariano Taitano, Christopher Leon Guerrero, Sapuro Rayphand, Barbara Torres, Juan Cepeda, and Paul Joyce.

The Fund separately filed at least four motions over the weekend.

The Fund, through counsels Braddock J. Huesman and Jeremy B. Coffey, asked the court to issue an order setting July 31, 2012, at 5pm (Saipan time) as a bar date for the filing of proofs of claim against the Fund.

The Fund is also seeking a court order authorizing the retention and employment of the law office of Huesman as special counsel and designated counsel for the Fund in the bankruptcy case.

The third motion is an application for an order authorizing the employment and retention of Buck Consultants as an actuarial consultant for the Fund.

The fourth motion is for an order providing for the continued payment of certain benefits to certain retirees of the government and autonomous CNMI agencies, their survivors, and/or certain disabled persons.

The Fund counsel told the court that the intent of filing the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition is to restructure the Fund's obligation and not to shut down the agency.

'There's still chance for long-term alien workers'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said his meetings with U.S.-based groups dealing with labor and immigration have given much stronger hope that "long-term, legal alien workers" in the CNMI will be eligible for improved U.S. immigration status.

"In previous years, there were lots of activities we did here but not much happened. We now have to bring the matter to the national level," he said in an interview.

He said UWM is affiliating itself with a national labor group to help boost UWM's chances of pushing its end goal: "green card" and pathway to U.S. citizenship for long-term legal foreign workers here.

"We have a very good chance because many of the long-term alien workers here entered the CNMI legally, are in the U.S. Social Security system, have been paying or are now beginning to pay federal taxes or FICA," Syed added.

UWM is planning to hold a meeting this week to discuss Syed's meetings in the U.S. with national labor and immigration groups and their impacts on the United Workers Movement and foreign workers in the CNMI.

Syed also said UWM will be writing a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to ask DHS to allow those with parole status and whose CW petitions were filed after Nov. 28 to be able to start working even though their CW petition is still pending.

"We are asking this on humanitarian grounds," he added.

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on the following dates and times:

- May 7, from 8:30am to 1am
- May 8-11, from 8:30am to 8pm

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

New citizens during Law Week

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will hold a special naturalization ceremony today in honor of Law Day.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will administer the oath of allegiance to five citizenship candidates, who hail from the Marshall Islands and the Philippines. USCIS immigration services officer Diane Zedde will present the candidates to the court.

USCIS holds special ceremonies in an effort to bring the immigration process alive for the community. Law Day, a national day to recognize the country's commitment to the rule of law, is a memorable day for new citizens to join the United States of America. The 2012 Law Day theme, "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom," underscores the importance of the courts and their role in ensuring access to justice.

The District Court is celebrating Law Week with a "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" during which the children of federal agency employees learn about the CNMI's federal court and its partners. Zedde will give a short overview of the naturalization process prior to the ceremony.

Almost 700,000 people naturalized as U.S. citizens in fiscal year 2011. ***(USCIS)***

saipanair is closing the distance between saipan and japan/china.

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if you are looking for an exciting career in aviation, then saipanair may have the job you`re looking for!

saipanair is currently hiring captains and first officers for a base in saipan in the northern mariana islands.

requirements:

captain — 121 experience; flying the 757/767 minimum of 3000 total
first officers — 121 experience 2000 hours, 757/767 type rating preferred
must hold a current first class medical certificate

when applying, please note the following information in the body of your email:

- your crew position (captain or first officer)
- your total flight time
- your total turbine time
- if B757/767 experienced - please note your flight time in type
- if B757/767 experienced - please note the date of your last pc in that type
- if B757/767 experienced - please note the date of your last flight in that type
- your total turbine time and flight time should also be noted on your resume

saipanair requires employees to submit to drug/alcohol testing randomly throughout their employment. employment is contingent upon a cleared drug screen according to faa and saipanair standards.

if you meet the above-mentioned qualifications and the employment conditions are acceptable to you, please send your resume to workwithus@saipanair.com no phone calls please

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in anticipation of the launch of saipanair, we are inviting talented, conscientious, safety-minded, service-oriented, bilingual US workers to join our team.

the position is a multi-task job requiring various skills. the successful candidate will perform important safety, security and service-related responsibilities and interact with a diverse group of customers and fellow employees.

conditions of employment:

- minimum 21 years of age
- high school diploma or equivalent
- fluency in either mandarin chinese or japanese
- ability to hear, read, write and fluently speak and understand the english language
- authorization to work in the united states
- ability to pass an FAA-required ten-year work history review, a criminal background check, and fingerprinting
- ability to pass a rigorous training program
- willingness to work holidays, weekends, nights and extended hours

if you meet the above employment conditions and are interested in joining our team of dynamic saipanair flight attendants, please send your resume to workwithus@saipanair.com

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14th Taste of the Marianas kicks off at the AMP

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ribbon cutting at the American Memorial Park on Saturday marked the official start of the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden, which will be in full swing on all Saturdays of this month, from 6pm to 10pm.

Marianas Visitors Authority Perry Tenorio led the ceremony hosted by PDI director Gordon Marciano. Joining Tenorio were other community leaders, including House Speaker Eli Cabrera, House floor leader George Camacho, Reps. Stanley Torres and Edmund Villagomez, Mayor Donald G. Flores, MVA board member Emma Villagomez, Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, and American Memorial Park representatives.

Saturday's event also kicked off the CNMI Tourism Month celebration, highlighting the theme, "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

"Now in its 14th year, Taste of the Marianas is an event that has remained strong and continues to grow," Tenorio said. "It is because of all of you, our vendors, sponsors, and supporters that keep this event going."

American Memorial Park ranger Nancy Kelchner commended their "partners and friends" who work with them every year to host the Taste of the Marianas. Kelchner also introduced their new chief ranger, Dave Bauer, who hails from Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia, North Carolina.

"Enjoy yourself, enjoy good company, enjoy great food, but please be aware and safe," said Bauer, adding that he is excited to experience his first Taste of the Marianas.

The 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas is an opportunity to socialize with the island's visitors as well as offer tourists insights into the Commonwealth's heritage through local performances.

This year's Taste features 18 food concessionaires and beer garden vendors: Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Canton Restaurant, Furusato Restaurant, Sierra Pearl Shakes, Capricciosa/Tony Roma's, D'Elegance Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hula Girl/3's, Thai House Restaurant, Poon's Restaurant, Tropical Chill, and Coral Ocean Point.

Saturday's performances featured the Chinese Association of Saipan's Lion Dance, the Saipan Awaodori Team, Pacific Flowers, Uncle Ben's Music & Dance, Inatuas, and the Tipi Yeew Dancers.

The first day of the festival also featured a hotdog eating competition. Contestants had to chow down three hotdogs in buns. Winning the youth category were Simon Necesito, first place, $50 worth of tokens; Darwin Ubarra, second place, $30 tokens; and Juwon Jung, third place, $20 tokens.

Under the adult category, the winners were Rob Epley, first place, $50 tokens; Hyuk Kweon, second place, $30 tokens; and Kim Hyung Gyu, third place, $20 tokens.

Next Saturday's competition is the inaugural pie eating contest. Four judges will also evaluate the entries for the best decorated booth, the winners of which will be announced on the last Saturday of the festival.

For more information, call 664-3200 or 01 or visit www.mymarianas.com.

Ogumoro is named Zoning administrator

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning board approved Thursday the appointment of Therese T. Ogumoro as the administrator for the Zoning Office.

Ogumoro has been holding the post in an acting capacity since July 2011 after the board terminated the services of former administrator Douglas T. Wyatt.

"Effective [May 4, Friday], I am ordering you to move from your office to the Zoning administrator office. Congratulations," said board chair Diego Blanco.

Ogumoro said the Zoning Office is faced with challenges that she described as "very critical" to resolve.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Newly appointed Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro, seated, is flanked by Zoning board members for a photo after their meeting last Thursday.

"My greatest challenge is to implement a law which has widespread public support, but which cannot please every interest in every circumstance. I hope that the Legislature will recognize that the Zoning board and office are trying to put the needs of the community first and will work with us to meet the challenge," Ogumoro said via email.

The Zoning Office is currently working on re-submitting its text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 to reflect the comments made during public hearings and based on sound zoning policy.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed in March House Local Bill 17-26, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres, which proposed more changes to the law, in addition to those from the Zoning Office. In his decision, Fitial cited provisions that present "significant legal concerns," specifically illegal "spot zoning."

While she treats all her tasks as a priority, Ogumoro said that on top of the list is "to improve the quality of life for residents of Saipan" through zoning. She also vowed to look for alternative funding sources to augment the office's finances, as well as work with lawmakers and the public to get a "new and improved" zoning law in place.

With Ogumoro's appointment, the Zoning Office now needs a full-time Zoning planner—the position that Ogumoro used to hold. At least two applications have been received as of 4:30pm of May 3, Ogumoro said. The new employee is expected to be on board next month.

The Zoning Office also expects to hire a new administrative assistant, Berna Babauta, whose employment papers are in route, and new Zoning officer Jocelyn Aldan Kapileo, who starts her work today.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner, vs. **DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER,** Respondent.	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, -v- **LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0131** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters cast of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35′ 00″, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13 00″ E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47′ 00″ E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13′ 00″ W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Planner

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Planner. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Manage complex permit applications including pre-application consultations, application intake, review for compliance, assuring compliance with timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparation of project recommendations and reports as assigned by the Administrator; Prepare recommended updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Law, Zoning Board regulations, and zoning office guidelines; Coordinate, as appropriate, with other agencies and secure project reviews and recommendations; Identify and seek resolution of interdepartmental concerns; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the Saipan Zoning Law and related permit requirements and procedures; Maintain records using paper and electronic media and a Geographic Information System; Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 5 years experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, business administration, public health, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, or related field. Other requirement includes proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook Explorer;

The salary range is from $38,000 to $40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive application and all requirements is May 10th, 2012 at 4:30pm.

'Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools'

Teacher APPRECIATION Week

May 7 to 11, 2012

In celebration of **Teacher Appreciation Week**, the CNMI State Board of Education, the Public School System and the Office of the Commissioner of Education acknowledge and hail the immense contribution of our public school teachers, teacher aides and instructors. Their commitment, dedication and sacrifice have allowed our kids to continuously thrive and grow through quality and free education.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Founded 1947 Autonomy Jan. 11, 1988

STUDENTS FIRST

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR MILITARY SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMEND YOU ON YOUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION!

MAY 14 TO MAY 18 WEEK

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

$15M suit seeks control of Laos slot machines

A company that owns slot machine clubs in Laos is demanding at least $15 million from another slot machines supplier that transacts business within the CNMI.

Sanum Investments Limited, through counsel Daniel C. Stafford, is suing Silver Heritage Ltd. and 20 unnamed co-defendants in Superior Court for intentional interference with contractual and economic relationships. Sanum is demanding $15 million in actual damages, plus other damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Sanum Investments is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Macau Special Administrative Region. Silver Heritage is a corporation organized under the laws of Hong Kong and conducts business in the CNMI.

According to the complaint, Sanum has a master agreement with ST Group Co., Ltd., outlining the general business relationship between the two parties in Laos. One of these business activities is the operation of an existing slot machine club called Slot Club, owned by ST Group in Thanaleng, Vientiane province, Laos.

Stafford said that under the master agreement, the parties would share revenue but Sanum would eventually control and a 60-percent revenue share as of Oct. 11, 2011.

Stafford said that, on Oct. 4, 2008, Sanum and ST Group entered into another agreement where Sanum will provide slot machines to ST Group for use at the Slot Club. In exchange, ST was required to exclusively use Sanum's slot machines at the Slot Club.

On April 11, 2012, Stafford said that ST unilaterally shutdown the Slot Club and barred and prohibited Sanum from entering the club. That same date, ST Group indicated that it would remove Sanum's slot machines and replace them with slot machines provided by another supplier.

Sanum believes that Silver Heritage conspired with and entered into agreements with ST Group to bring its own slot machines into the Slot Club to replace the machines owned by Sanum, Stafford said.

"As a result of Silver Heritage's improper and intentional misconduct, Sanum has suffered significant monetary damages in an amount exceeding $15 million," the lawyer said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Dr. W. Chris Perez elected chair of UOG board

Dr. W. Chris Perez was elected chairman of the University of Guam Board of Regents during their regular meeting held April 26. Kathy Sgro was elected vice chairperson, and John Arroyo was elected treasurer.

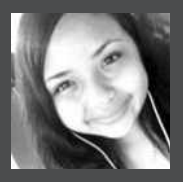
Perez

"To serve is a privilege. To serve well is a responsibility. To serve righteously is honorable. The Board of Regents of UOG has and will continue to serve honorably," said Perez. "I am indebted to chairman Sonny Ada for his example of firm and fair leadership which the newly elected officers of the Board will emulate."

On behalf of the university community, UOG president Robert Underwood expressed his gratitude to former chair P. Sonny Ada and regent Andrew Laguana whose terms end May 29, 2012. Student Regent Joseph Villagomez's term also ends in May and the new student regent elected by the UOG student body is Anthony Quenga.

"Congratulations to the new slate of officers who were unanimously elected by members of the board," said Underwood. "We look forward working with Dr. Perez in his new role as chair." ***(UOG)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 17th birthday greetings to Daphne Dela Cruz! We hope you enjoy your day and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from Sha.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daphne, may God bless you and keep you always in his tender, loving care. We hope that your day is blessed with happiness and joy. We thank God for the day that you were born. We are so grateful that we have you as a daughter. Happy birthday to a wonderful daughter. Greetings come from Dad, Mom, EJ, and RemyAnn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-066

SUBMISSION DATE : JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A POLICE CRUISER (SEDAN) PACKAGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-067 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE : JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POLICE PASSENGER VANS (A-SAIPAN AND B- ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-068 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TRAILERS (A-OP/CR AND B-DUI/IMPAIRED DRIVING) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-DPS-069

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 04, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 2012 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (DOUBLE CAB) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DIRECTOR GREGORY F. CASTRO AT (670) 664-9088 OR ALINA CABRERA AT (670) 664-9122.

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THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-PD-065 (1-15)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS/HARDWARES/SOFTWARES TO INCLUDE INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ADAM HARDWICKE
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-GOV-075

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DIVERT ACTIVITIES ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ADVISORY CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE MILITARY INTEGRATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. TOM LINDEN, MIMC COORDINATOR AT **mio@gov.mp** NO LATER THAN **3:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 16, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ESTHER FLEMING
GRANT ADMINSTRATOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 7, 1999

Ingram proposes transfer of some DPS function to mayors

Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram has proposed the transfer of some police functions to mayors in order to unburden the Department of Public Safety with responsibilities which could be handled by localities. While DPS is a state function provided by law, and its responsibilities have grown over the years. "The DPS is so huge now, it's hard for one man to run it," he said. As stated in the law, DPS will run the police force, fire service and correction service, but in recent years, it was tasked with additional functions like the Boating Safety Unit and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

JAL plans to boost flights to Saipan

Japan Airlines will provide charter flights from Nagoya and Fukuoka to Saipan in July and August as it remains committed to boost traffic and help revive the island's ailing tourism economy. However, the Marianas Visitors Authority must carry out more promotional campaign if it wants more visitors to come to the CNMI, said Yukiharu Enomoto, district manager of JAL. He said Saipan will continue to come to the island because "it is the biggest resort island for Japanese people." With the combined efforts of MVA and JAL in marketing the CNMI in Japan, Enomoto said the Japanese people are gradually recognizing it as an ideal destination.

May 7, 2001

DPH saves $1.5M from hiring setup

The CNMI government realized $1.5 million in annual savings since 1998 for commissioning two Saipan-based manpower agencies to hire personnel and medical experts for the Commonwealth Health Center. Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said manpower pooling allowed the hospital to minimize problems associated with the issuance of full-time employees documents, disproportionate benefits and salary ceiling for newly hired CHC staff. DPH has contracted the services of Saipan Employment Agency & Services and Paras Enterprises Saipan Inc., to hire nurses off-island to the Northern Marianas.

Tinian mulls rehabilitation of 38 historical, tour sites

Local leaders need over $100,000 for the restoration and development of more than 38 historical sites on Tinian that need major rehabilitation to pump up the island's tourism industry. Talks on the possible infusion of capital for tourism-related projects are now underway as legislators and local government leaders try to source out funding assistance from federal and local agencies, Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz said. Mr. Dela Cruz disclosed the island's leaders have started exploring alternative sources of funds that will allow the local government to carry out the needed development and rehabilitation of tourist areas such as dive sites, former World War II arsenals and others.

May 7, 2002

CUC projects $1.6M net income

Sustaining its claim that its financial standing has improved, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday said it is projecting a net income of up to $1.6 million, if the settlement agreement it is negotiating with the Commonwealth Development Authority would finally be adopted. This, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation adopted its budget for Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003 in a regular board meeting held yesterday afternoon. "The net result of both our operation and non-operation revenue and expense report is a loss of nearly $2.3 million. The loss takes into consideration interest in the amount of $3.8 that would have been due CDA," stated comptroller Rufo T. Mafnas, in his report to the board.

MVA gets waiver on hiring nonresidents

Long hampered by the lack of qualified technical staff in Japan itself, the Marianas Visitors Authority may now begin hiring Japanese workers as tourism consultants, marketing managers and other technical and professional employees who will augment the MVA's office in that country. This comes soon after acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed into law Friday House Bill 13-79, which expands the coverage of Public Law 12-34 to include the MVA among those government agencies that are exempted from the blanket restriction on the hiring of nonresident workers.

Company gets exclusive stevedoring rights on Tinian

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board approved Friday the request of Tinian Marine Stevedore Inc. for a 10-year exclusive right for stevedoring services on Tinian, with the condition that the company would pay 4 percent of its gross revenue to the agency beginning on its third year.

At the meeting, Saipan seaport manager Mary Ann Q. Lizama pointed to a seaport map the area covered by the exclusive rights, which is on the "southern portion, east quay."

The board said that granting TMS' request will allow the company to mobilize and move their equipment to begin stevedoring operation once more on Tinian.

Tinian Stevedore was the island's main provider of stevedoring services but the company officially shut down last Oct. 31, resulting in residents and businesses struggling to find a way to get their goods.

CPA board member Benigno M. Sablan emphasized that the board's decision will help lower the cost of commodities on the island. "It's so expensive to live on Tinian," he added.

Board member Barry C. Toves expressed concern that granting 10-year exclusive rights to just one company would have potential impacts. Lizama explained, though, that the exclusivity is only for a specific location, thus the rest of the marina remains available for other companies that are willing to start their business there.

CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero noted in an interview after the meeting that Tinian "always" had one operating stevedoring company despite issuing licenses for two, given the island's small trade activity on the island.

"Tinian now doesn't have any stevedoring service that's why these guys [TMS] are coming in now. They are leasing property from us from way back. They just want to come back and start doing business as stevedoring," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

TMS, Deleon Guerrero said, will have to spend "a lot of money" to bring in their equipment, which also need to be certified, hence the board's decision to grant them exclusive rights.

He added that CPA will be "tagging" 4 percent of TMS' gross receipts on their third year. "The first two years, we're going to try and help one another for them to recoup what they spent to do their business," said Deleon Guerrero. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

SOPHIA-FIESTA
Fun Walk
Saturday, May 12, 2012
Registration opens: 6:00 a.m. Start Time: 6:30 a.m.
Starting point Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
5K and 10K
Registration fee of $10 includes: *Goody bag w/some give-away
* SOPHIA-Fiesta 2012 T-Shirt * Souvenir pin * raffle ticket for door prizes
* light breakfast & entertainment.
Cash prizes awarded to Male & Female Oldest Walker;
Youngest Walker and the Best in Costume.
Advance Registration may be done at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.
Contact PDI Hiroko (287-8780) MVA Hiroko (483-0614) or Elena (234-6412 Ext. 1512)
Tan Holdings
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
Saipan Grand Hotel
PDi
KKMP
DFS GALLERIA
Saipan Tinian Rota
Coca-Cola

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Disease in dairy cow shows the need for stricter standards

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Wednesday, May 2:*

Mad cow disease has the power to terrify, but at this point, U.S. consumers have far more to fear from other sources of food poisoning. There have been no human deaths from eating mad-cow-tainted beef in this country. Meanwhile, other food-borne illnesses kill 3,000 Americans a year; close to 400 die from salmonella alone, according to a 2011 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

That said, there's still reason for concern about this country's efforts to prevent mad cow—formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy—despite federal officials' rosy statements after a California dairy cow was discovered to have the disease. The cow was among the 40,000 cattle randomly tested each year in this country for mad cow, and is only the fourth case to be detected. As spokesmen for the U.S. Department of Agriculture put it, the diseased cow had never entered the human food supply; it was found at a rendering plant, which processes animal remains for use in animal feed and some household products. And it had an atypical form of the illness, one that is more likely to have developed spontaneously rather than having been ingested through its feed, though the USDA is investigating the food records of the dairy involved.

This country's primary defense against mad cow is a ban on feeding cattle parts to other cattle. That is supposed to prevent one animal from infecting another—both mad cow and the human variant of the disease are spread by consuming parts of infected cattle. But that goal is undermined by one industry practice that is still allowed: Those cattle parts can be turned into chicken feed. Chickens can't contract the disease, but their uneaten feed and their droppings are then scooped up and processed into cattle feed. This procedure should be banned.

USDA officials touted the California case as proof that their random sampling works. But the agency tests only one in about 900 cattle. The chances are tiny that there was only one sickened animal among the 35 million cattle slaughtered each year in the United States, and that this level of testing just happened to catch it. The fact that testing found any cases is reason enough to increase testing.

There's probably no cause for alarm, but that doesn't mean that the federal government has taken all the reasonably appropriate steps to protect and reassure consumers. South Korea halted imports of U.S. beef for five years after a previous case was discovered in this country, and two retailers there stopped selling last week. Indonesia is also banning imports. The U.S. beef industry itself should be calling for extra measures to protect the reputation of its products.

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THE GOP'S TRACK RECORD ON WOMEN'S ISSUES
MITT ROMNEY DRIVES AROUND WITH A DOG ON HIS ROOF.

Three opportunities that can help our economy

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It is a truism that help must start from within. This means that any improvement whether on oneself or on a community to have a true impact must start from within the affected person or area. So today let's discuss at least three ideas than should be considered seriously that could have a real impact to coming close to solving some of our problems.

A problem will arise when I mention each one: Do we have the strong desire to implement them or will we find "buts" (excuses) why we cannot implement them? Cures take a long time and require determination, sacrifices, and patience from the patient.

The first one concerns the hiring of local workers on any project that involves local or federal funding. We are constantly reminded that by Dec. 31, 2014, very few nonresident workers will be allowed to remain in the CNMI. However, are we doing much to train our potential local labor force to prepare for this date?

My suggestion is for the Legislature pass a law that insists that 30 percent of the winning bidder's labor force must be local employees. For example: XYZ Construction Co. wins a bid on a highway project. It needs 60 employees to do the work. Of the 60 employees at least 20 should be local employees. To be sure that the 20 local employees hired under the new law are trained, this pool of men or women should be enrolled at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Why do I suggest this point?

Most local employees need training. Therefore by being enrolled in NMTI, they will be able to study in the evening in classes and work on the job in the daytime. This combination of theory and actual on-the-job training will hasten the learning of various skills needed in construction work.

Do we ever see any local workers on the ARRA projects? For instance, when you drive through the back road going to Kagman and on to San Vincente, have we ever seen one local person working on that project, even as simple a job as holding up a sign for traffic? What do all these mean?

This idea of mandating 30 percent local workers on every project should be extended to various other industries. For example, let's include the hotel industry and tourism or any other where 30 percent of the employees are not local. While this may sound radical and pushy, the question remains: Will we have the needed trained labor force by Dec. 31, 2014? What will we do when we learn the bitter truth that there will be no extension and even if we get an extension, it will be only a temporary measure?

The second idea is to impose protective import duties on any food, vegetables, fruits, or any other item that we can grow or make in the CNMI. We grow bananas, and many other fruits and vegetables here. Why do we insist on importing these items to compete against our own producers?

Recall why the garment industry flooded into the CNMI years ago. It was because the United States had a huge import duty on garments manufactured in various countries in Asia. Headnote 3 was created allowing China, Korea, and other Asian countries to set up shop in the CNMI to manufacture garments that then entered the United States at no tax or a very low one. This act helped us greatly and allowed millions of garments to flow into the United States at a better price.

Every country practices this import tax protection to assist its fledging industries. Why don't we? This import duty against items we can grow, catch, or produce in the CNMI does not restrict the importation of any of these items. It simply says the retail price for imported products will have an import duty while the locally produced items will not. Two beneficial things will happen. One will be that added money will go into the almost empty treasury and the other is that it will motivate our people to produce and grow more. This will create much needed jobs.

You, the consumer, can still enjoy the imported items but you will have to pay a higher price for them. Yes, it will take courage to implement this idea but look at the two benefits—more revenue and more incentive for our people to produce.

The third idea is to motivate our farmers to begin plowing their fields and to plant various crops for our local market and for export. We must take a determined step to produce fruits and vegetable from our abundant fertile soil.

Guam is our biggest market that we have neglected for years. The CNMI has much more tillable land than Guam. For example the USDA states that Guam has only 13,376 acres of farm land. The CNMI has 117,760 acres! This means that the CNMI has nine times the amount of arable land available than Guam. The CNMI, as in the past, can once again become the breadbasket for the Marianas and Guam.

As reported in June, 2011, the following numbers show the huge amount of imports into Guam and are important indicators of potential sales from the CNMI:

Imports: For the month of June 2011 only—Bureau of Statistics and Planning

Vegetables	$1,106,976
Fruits	$359,348
Spice	$70, 467
Cut flowers	$66,905
Pork	$ 1,462,920
Fish	$570,096
TOTAL	$3,636,712

Sad to relate that only a few dollars worth of sweet potatoes and taro are the only ones shipped to Guam. But if we really try we could capture at least 25 percent of that market. Think if it is almost a million dollars a month. I almost forgot to mention that Korea shipped to Guam about $78,543 worth of vegetables. But why not us who are only a few miles and an hour away? This is a major solution to our economic problem. Consider all the pride that this will

See THREE on Page 13

Finatton Linala' Miserable

Sige teti Primet Agua de Abrit gi mapos na semana. Hu lippan ñaihon chinatsagaghu 'nai manguaife i freskon mañglu'. Lau ti apmam pumara ya numalu tatte i maipe taiguihe antes de kuaresma. Sumen na' fatigau.

Mampos didog na chinatsaga tafafana ayu buente na todu maipe yan diskalintau kinalamten i linahyan siha gi enteru atkipelagon iya Marianas.

Lau i mamamaila' na kondision miserable lamita patte isau i publiku sa' mampos konsentidot gi maseden mabotan parientela para che'chu areglon otdin publiku. Pues mauleg ta pañot hafa i mamamaila' sa' mañasaunau hit guine na dibina.

Yangin mampos chatsaga kinalamten tautau giya Saipan, kuandu menos i man-gaige Tinian yan Luta ni fuetsau debi u fan man-apase mas guaguan na presiun nesessidat familia. Mas ha fuñut i silensiu na patte gi hinasoghu. Makat hu aksepta lau estague' finatton ekun napu.

Mampos man-diskuidau i man-ma-elihe gi che'chu' linahyan. I man-apalo'pu' siha na diskuidu gaige esta gi sagua' na kakaghalom. Tat ti umapatte dididi' gi paketen chinatsaga. Hakot ya un' dispacha sa' dudayu' kau malago hau mana' hassu nu i diskuidun representante ni hagas un' pega gi lehislatura yan administrasion para che'chu' linahyan.

Klaru ginen trompison diskuidu na trabiha chagu' i hagas ta diseha para ta gobietnan maisa hit. Buente estake ha fondugue' este na chinatsaga gi pisun familiata 'nai ta repara na lamayot patte hita umesague gi hechuran haye ta pepega kumu representanteta parehu ha' gi administrasion yan lehislatura. Tatnai sisida para ta fafana' doble diskuidu pagu.

Hu diseseha na u guaha mas antau na inebaluan haye magahet kapas yan preparau para u petsige edukau yan kabales na konsiderasion adelantun linahyan. Mampos gueku i "biba" ya ti nahoñg para fotmat na che'chu' publiku.

■■■

Mafatañgaye Antau Na Abisu

Dies años malofan, ma-abisa i kabesanten man-retirau (board) na u gef atan haye para u ayeg kumu konseheron man-inbestan fondun i programa.

Ni unu humuñgog ayu na abisu na esta ensegidas ta kone' tatte. Dispues, ta dispensa ayu siha na kompania kontempu siakassu na guaha sinida'ta lache bidan niha.

Mampos man-doli hit gi hafa sessu asuntota. Ti man-listu hit umekuñgog satton na abisu sa' sessu tafa' tatuñgu' i tita tuñgu'. Kulan hit i tres na man-bachet famaguon cha'ka gi halom kusina. Dehemunos kau hafa ta sufa' kumu man-sige hit mona man-epineduñg 'an soblan lamasan chumochu.

Gaige na kumeke matmos i fondu gi halom tasin diskuidu ni kinenduse ni man-sabiun i Hegsu' i Deni. De dios na che'chu' atrebisau i masusede.

Debi Marianas u ketuñgu sumañgan dibuenamente haf' tiha tuñgu' pot no u aminsa, sin presisu, i lina'la' publiku pot ha apotsu i asuntu. Estague' masusede i programan man-retirau 'nai hita mismu muna' lamen i programa. Pot fabot sa' linala' i man-retirau gaige esta gi puntan kantit.

■■■

Otru siha asuntota

'Nai esta i batku karera de para u mafondun, magahet na ayu ha' siña un' sañgan i "chatmiyu fan luluhan?" Haf' na ti siña un' soyu' i marineru na umayute i boti siha ya umatutuohon matransferin pasaheru? 'An malagu' hau matmos, hagu la'mon lau pot fabot chamu kekehala' i pumalu papa' gi halom fache' kuchinada.

■■■

Kada sakan na un' sapet linala' i publiku, faktu kabales na tres años tatte 'nai un' luñu' ha'anen niha. Kuantu sakan esta deste ke man-mafondu hit gi halom tasin miserable? Kau magahet na kuerun kaiman lasas niha i man-gaige gi hegsu' i Deni?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

■■■

Giya Puntan Muchot, chumiliguagua'-yu' as bihuhu 'nai sige ha dagau talayan tiau. Kada ha chuda' ginen i talaya i kinine'ña siha, hu hafut gi halom unai ya sige hu hopyat para bai' disgonaf. Dispues hu lie' gi lachagu' gi sanlichan man-susulu' guihan dikiki' lau i trahen niha mampos antigosu.

Hu sañgañgane si biuhu dispues haf' linie'hu. Chumaleg ya ilegña na i man-mofo'na lokue guaha nesessidat niha ayu mina' manestaba guihe. Ti hu komprende lau huñgan magahet na i espiritun mañainata gaige ha' gi oriyata. Buente ayugue' na finanu'en niha i para bai' tuñgu' na i peskan tasi hagas patte gi tradision natibu deste tiempun antigu.

Lamegai siha hu fagcha'e na eksperiensia yan espirtun manmofo'na. Lau megaiña besis lokue' 'nai hu pañot ales. Hu aksepta hafa gaige gi oriyahu. Yangin enfin siha i mañainata, pues sin di-tension hu faisen dispensasion yan bendision niha lokue' gi mismu tiempu. Hu tuñgu' na man-gaige gi fihonhu ya siha mina' motmutyu' proteksion maseha manuyu' guatu guine siha na islas.

■■■

Un' pitbetsu sige ha butleha un' bachet na amku'. Sinañgane gi hilu' pinasensia, "I bendisionhu u gaige giya hagu ihu pot no un' lalacha' gi tailayen heñumu". Buenu!

Rising above the demagoguery

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the speech that won Victoria Camacho the championship trophy in the 28th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition held at the Guma Hustisia Thursday last week.

"The governor should resign." "Saipan sucks." "They're stupid."

These are not lines from Saturday Night Live, the John Stewart Show, or even someone's Facebook wall. These are actual words ripped from local headlines, and they reveal the real problem here in the Commonwealth.

It's not the economy. It's not crime or drugs or violence. It's not even the government. It's something that jeopardizes our ability to work together to solve all our problems. You see these days, everyone—politicians, pundits, and voters themselves—have gotten so emotional and so irrational that we're left with a civil discourse that is far from civil. The ancient Greeks had a word for this manipulation of the prejudices, fears, and expectations of the public. They called it demagoguery.

But the only way we can address the pressing issues of our day is to rise above the name-calling and discuss these issues using logic and reason. As U. S. Representative Paul Ryan put it recently, "Exploiting people's emotions of fear, envy and anxiety is not hope, it's not change, it's partisanship. We don't need partisanship. We don't need demagoguery, we need solutions."

I point this out because this year's topic has stirred a lot of fear, envy, and anxiety on both sides of the debate. However, rather than resorting to demagoguery, I come before you today to appeal to your reason.

Should the Commonwealth's Senate be apportioned based on the current premise of equal representation for the three senatorial districts, or should it be reapportioned based on population?

First, I will present arguments to maintain the status quo of equal representation. Second, I will present arguments to reapportion the Senate based on population.

Let us first consider the status quo.

The current system of equal representation in the Senate is the result of a compromise struck by the CNMI's founding fathers that borrowed heavily from the U.S. Connecticut Compromise.

Before the establishment of the Commonwealth, the Marianas District Legislature was a unicameral body with 11 representatives for Saipan, three for Rota, one for Tinian, and one for the Northern Islands. This apportionment afforded little power to the smaller islands and bred substantial discontent among their people and their leaders.

So, when our islands began covenant negotiations to establish a Commonwealth, representatives from Rota and Tinian saw this an opportunity to changes things.

As recorded in the Report of the Marianas Political Status Commission, Rota and Tinian lobbied to restructure representation in the new legislature from one based on population to one based on geography. Some of these representatives went so far as to threaten to walk out of covenant negotiations if their proposal was not entertained.

While Saipan representatives disagreed with the Rota and Tinian leaders, everyone at the table understood that this apportionment issue could be a deal-breaker, and that unless the issue was resolved, Covenant negotiations could break down.

Fortunately, the CNMI's founding fathers prevented that from happening by striking a compromise that would later be embedded into our Constitution. Instead of a unicameral legislature, they introduced a bicameral legislature, one that provided for a House of Representatives whose apportionment is based on population, and a Senate whose apportionment is based on equal representation for all three islands.

In this regard, then, the CNMI's version of the Connecticut Compromise did more than just respond to the concerns of Rota and Tinian. It effectively saved the Covenant. Had our founding fathers not struck that compromise, this Commonwealth may never have been established. Beyond that, though, the current apportionment in the Senate has also helped protect the rights of the minority against the tyranny of the majority.

In Federalist #10, James Madison cautioned against democracies that ruled "not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority." British leader, Lord John Dalberg-Acton, even went so far as to say, "The one pervading evil of democracy is the tyranny of the majority."

The current apportionment in the Senate does, in fact, protect the minority interests of Rota and Tinian. It ensures that those islands receive adequate funding for public services, infrastructure, and socio-economic development. It also ensures that they have a voice in Congress. Indeed, if it weren't for equal representation in the Senate, Rota and Tinian might be left behind.

But this raises an important question and brings me to the second half of this speech.

Just as we must protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority, should we not also protect the majority from the tyranny of the minority?

Let's just look at the numbers.

First, the total population between Rota and Tinian accounts for about 10 percent of the total CNMI population, yet those islands hold 66 percent of the power in the Senate.

Second, Saipan has a ratio of one elected official for every 2,200 voters—a ratio nearly triple that of Tinian's ratio of about one to 800 and nearly quadruple Rota's ratio of one to 600.

Third, from the perspective of individual voters, a voter on Tinian has 300 percent more voting influence than a Saipan voter, and a voter from Rota has 350 percent more voting influence than a Saipan voter.

In other words, voters on Tinian and Rota have three times the voting power as voters on Saipan. No matter how you dice up the numbers, it is clear that the CNMI Senate is ruled by a minority of CNMI voters.

Furthermore, this situation clearly contradicts established Supreme Court rulings that have upheld the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law with the standard of "one person, one vote."

By VICTORIA CAMACHO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Victoria Camacho is a junior at Mount Carmel School.

In the 1963 ruling in *Gary vs. Sanders*, Justice William O. Douglass wrote in the majority opinion, "The concept of political equality...can mean only one thing—one person, one vote." The 1964 ruling in *Reynolds vs. Sims* reinforced the one person, one vote standard, with Chief Justice Earl Warren writing in the majority opinion that "legislators represent people, not trees or acres."

The numbers in the CNMI don't add up to this one person, one vote standard because Rota and Tinian voters outpower Saipan voters with the equivalent of three votes for every one voter.

But it's not just about the numbers. It's also about the ability of our government to function. The current apportionment system in the Senate has resulted in a virtual gridlock with the governor vetoing bills from the Senate, the Senate rejecting the governor's appointments, and our government degenerating into political demagoguery. So it is clear that we must consider reapportionment based on population in order to protect the majority from a tyranny of the minority.

However, reapportioning the Senate based on population poses two big problems.

First, if we reapportion the current nine senators based on population, considering that Rota and Tinian make up about 10 percent of the CNMI's population, they would be left with one senator for both islands, or half a senate seat for each island. This would seriously undermine their representation in the Senate.

Second, in a re-apportionment plan that provides Rota and Tinian with at least one senator each, we would have to expand the Senate to have 20 senators. This would only increase an already bloated government. So what are we to do? There are clearly problems with the current apportionment system, and a re-apportionment plan based on population presents equally compelling problems.

I believe that the only way we can resolve this dilemma is to focus on the crux of the issue, which is the fundamental challenge in any democracy. How can we balance the rights of the majority with the rights of the minority?

I propose a new compromise, one that can strike the right balance. I propose that we re-apportion the Senate to give Saipan five Senate seats, and Rota and Tinian two Senate seats each. Doing so would give Saipan senators a simple majority of the Senate, or more than 50 percent, but would protect the Rota and Tinian senators by preventing Saipan from having a supermajority, or two-thirds of the Senate.

See RISING on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

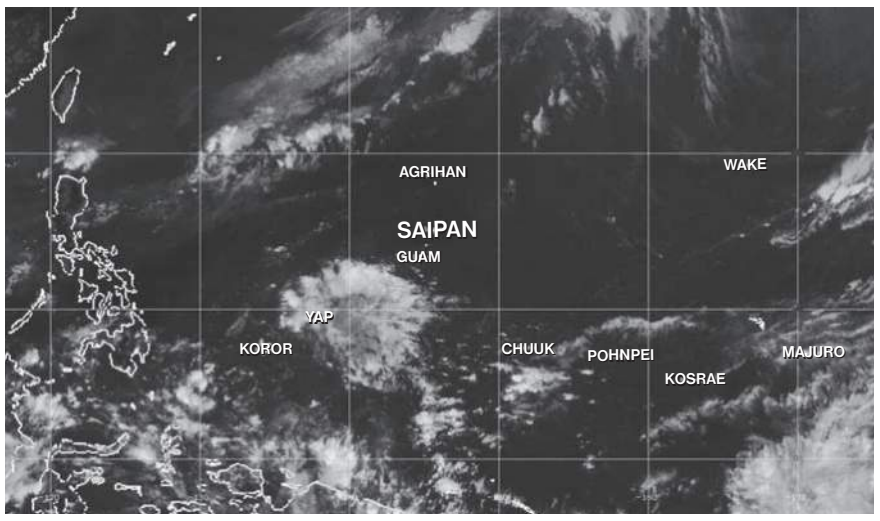
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼78
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲56	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲67	▼58
Rome	Showers	▲66	▼56
Salem	Sunny	▲68	▼53
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Cloudy	▲75	▼52
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼58
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front stretches southwestward from a low pressure system centered near Iwo To island at 25N144E to beyond 130E at 19N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the front north of a line from 18N130E to 22N144E. A surface trough runs northward from 5N139E to 11N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are occurring over Yap between 6N and 12N from 136E to 144E. Another surface trough extends southeastward from Mindanao through a low-level circulation centered southwest of Koror at 4N131E to end at EQ135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Koror or south of a line from 6N130E to 2N135E to 1N141E. Converging trade winds are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 5N and 6N from 151E to 155E and also over Tarawa Atoll south of a line from 1N167E to 2N180. A third surface trough reaches northeastward from north of Kwajalein at 11N170E to beyond 25N at 177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the trough axis or east of Wake Island within 105 miles of a line from 16N172E to 22N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:52 PM	6:30 AM
Tuesday	8:56 PM	7:31 AM
Wednesday	9:56 PM	8:34 AM
Thursday	10:50 PM	9:36 AM
Friday	11:39 PM	10:36 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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When a child is missing, both ambiguity and resolution bring their own kind of pain

By GEOFFREY GREIF
The Baltimore Sun

Geoffrey Greif is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the co-author of When Parents Kidnap: The Stories Behind the Headlines. *Readers may send him email at ggreif@ssw.umaryland.edu. He wrote this for the* Baltimore Sun.

Etan Patz, Madeleine McCann, Phylicia Barnes, Jaycee Dugard: four children who were declared missing and whose cases have had different outcomes so far. What knits their families together is that they all experienced loss, though of different types.

Etan Patz, missing since 1979, was 6 when he vanished and was declared dead in 2001. A recent search for his remains was started and stopped. Madeleine McCann, presumably abducted at age 3 while on vacation with her parents in Portugal in 2007, may still be alive, according to new police reports. Phylicia Barnes left the house while visiting family in Baltimore in 2010 and was found dead four months later. She was 16. An arrest was made last week in connection to her death. Jaycee Dugard was 11 when she taken in 1991 and was found alive 18 years later, having given birth to two daughters. Her abductors are in prison.

The cases of Etan and Madeleine have raised their families' hopes—if only briefly—that closure of some sort is possible, whether it is to finally put doubt to rest or to reunite with a missing child. A few years ago, while I was working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, I met with adults whose sibling had vanished years before. Those I spoke with said that even 20 years later, they would see the back of someone's head in a crowd and wonder if that was their missing brother or sister.

Pauline Boss, a professor and marital and family therapist at the University of Minnesota, coined the term "ambiguous loss" to describe what happens when people are missing, either physically or emotionally. The disappearance of loved ones due to brain injury (emotional loss), incarceration, war or kidnapping puts them out of reach and hinders coping because their loss is unresolved. When a missing child is found dead, hopefulness ends—but so does a period of ambiguity about the child's fate. The loss is resolved and becomes absolute, as in the Barnes case. Established rituals of mourning can then take place as the community comes together. Closure is possible.

Etan's parents waited 22 years to declare him dead, most likely in hope that he was still alive. Their loss, like that of so many others with missing family members, may still be ambiguous, despite publicly acknowledging his death. Madeleine's parents may have their own dreams of reunification fanned by investigators, although in some cases the opposite happens. The Dugard case, in particular, might well cause any parents to consider whether their missing daughter or son might show up five, 10, or even 18 years later.

Such losses, whether resolved or ambiguous, can reverberate through the family for generations. How does one answer the question about how many siblings one has without reopening a wound? One woman reported that she and her family have not talked about a missing sister for 30 years. Differences in perception about why a child disappeared can impede a family's ability to cope; missing teens may be seen as runaways by the authorities but viewed as kidnapped by the family.

Ambiguity can persist even in cases that result in reunification. Upon learning that Jaycee was alive, her mother might have envisioned the 11-year-old, not the grown daughter who had become a mother of two. Jaycee might have expected her mother to look the same as in 1991. Robbed of so many years, they have had to learn anew how to relate to each other.

Families coping with ambiguous loss are encouraged to also accept a loss of control. The goal, as Ms. Boss suggests, is to understand what can and what cannot be changed. While the loved one's absence is not in the family's control, working to adapt to the absence may be. People take concrete steps to deal with their losses.

Those whom I have interviewed have started scholarship funds in a lost loved one's memory in order to make meaning of their loss. They lean on spiritual beliefs for support. They hold annual rituals like candle lighting at significant dates, such as birthdays, to keep the missing person present in their lives. They give lectures about dealing with loss. They participate in focus groups with other people dealing with loss. Sometimes they make profound life changes, like Phylicia's half-brother, who decided to become a Baltimore police officer in response to her disappearance.

By being active, they take charge of those parts of their lives that they can control. And they rely on loved ones, as we all need to do when the road ahead is not clearly marked.

Letters to the Editor

How to get through to Congress

The U.S. Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representative. There are 435 voting members in the lower house and 100 voting members in the upper house. The U.S. House of the Representatives and Senate address issues affecting their constituents and they will entertain anyone within their congressional district. It is a common practice and courtesy for a U.S. congressional district not to entertain any person from another district.

In the mid-'90s, I contacted the office of U.S. Rep. Henry John Hyde (R-Illinois) relating to our constituents' immigration issue. Honorable Hyde was chairman on the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Representative. My request was forwarded to our congressional district representative in California and our congressional representative was U.S. Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.). Within eight months after I communicated with the office of Honorable Radanovich, our constituents were afforded to become U.S. citizens through the naturalization process. Mr. Radanovich knew that the non-profit I represent has about 15,000 people living within his congressional district. From that day on, I knew that groups of people will make a difference when pushing an agenda through Congress and the outcome was always favorable.

Based on our observation, the contract workers in the CNMI are misdirecting their efforts to be afforded permanent immigration status in the CNMI. Congress will never entertain any person out of his/her congressional district, let alone from a non-voting delegate district. Someone needs to step up to the plate, contact each one of the non-profit organizations in the 435 U.S. House of Representatives' districts. Request the assistance of the non-profits organizations to communicate with their respective congressman or congresswoman to implement the Department of Interior's recommendation, giving the contract workers in the CNMI immigration status.

All contract workers in the CNMI should communicate with their family in the United States, so their family members in the U.S. can request for their congressional representative to support giving their relatives in the CNMI the opportunity to become the newest members of the United States family. All contract workers' children serving in the U.S. Armed Forces stationed stateside or attending higher education in the United States should write to their congressman or senator in their respective district to afford their parents the opportunity to have immigration status in the CNMI. The sweet thing about the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, they will entertain anyone within their district even if such a person is not registered to vote or is a non-U.S. citizen.

One factor that prevents contract workers from getting an immigration status in the CNMI is that their movement leaders are not receptive to getting any help from other sources. They are fixated with getting help from one person and several groups to achieve their goals. In the United States, you need every help you can get in order to achieve the unthinkable. Good luck our brothers sisters and never give up.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, Calif.

Desk audit

The idea by a Tinian senator suggesting a desk audit of positions before a reduction-in-force takes effect to save some employees at the Tinian Health Center is a misguided notion, to say the least. What is needed is more fundamental than a human resources management process that involves justifying whether a given position is actually consistent with the action of a management official in utilizing the position as intended and authorized by law.

What a job audit would find and ascertain is calling a spade a spade. That is all to it. What is needed in the CNMI human resources practice modalities is workflow analysis. This type of review and evaluation involves finding the total work expectations and services and the systems in place within a work unit or responsibility center, and then tying such workload with the mix of jobs to achieve a desired end. Workflow analysis should be a no-brainer for any competent human resource manager or director of a human resources department such as the OPM. This is so basic in human resource management practices and strategies that if the OPM director lacks it, then we should ask the appointing authority to remove such a person from office.

This is where the problem lies. It is not that we have to job audit every time there is a question about job descriptions; what we need to implement is determining whether we have a bloated, useless, or insignificant capacities in jobs, chasing work without a system approach. And, the sad thing about all these, it should have been a normal course of business for the OPM.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

If it ain't broken, thank God

With all respect to Mr. Agulto, we don't need anymore "broken." We've got CHC running okay and now they broke it. Retirement too and now it's broke and who is going to fix it? We are all waiting to find out. Mr. Agulto, we've got plenty of broken, why do we need more like what you are saying? Delegate Kilili is working. Lets not break what works.

Bernard Camacho
Kagman, Saipan

Erratum

My letter should not have said that no one has recommended a 58 percent cut in pension benefits.

A reader pointed out that it has indeed been recommended by the Retirement Fund, most noticeably at the first day hearing in federal district court (which I did not attend).

My apologies.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

THREE

From Page 10

instill in us. Consider all the people who will be working, especially now when more hours are being cut and some employees even being laid off. Come on, let's act now!

There are many other ideas that you may also think about that would help us recover. Please share them with all of us. We need help. No idea is silly. We need to examine all ideas. And it must come from the inside, which is us. Outside help is at best only superficial if our own strong desire to help ourselves is weak.

The following is my personal observation. Most of all that is lacking is the desire to do something about our situation. Yes, I truly feel that. The reason I feel this way is that where is the leadership we so desperately need? Where is the motivation to prod us along? Why are our elected leaders quarreling with each time instead of working together? What does each want that they cannot obtain by working with all of us since we are all in the same boat? Doesn't each one realize that if the boat sinks we all drown?

I am reminded of two fellows in a rowboat. On the stern end one fellow was trying to punch a hole through the boat. The other fellow gazed at him unbelieving. "What are you doing? Don't you realize that if the water comes into the boat we will drown?" The other fellow quietly replied: " Don't worry. The hole is only on my end of the boat." Let's stop insisting that my way is the only way. We are drowning. Help! The water is rising higher and higher. Let's act now!

Call me a fool or very naïve, but I truly believe the first step to finding and then implementing several solutions to our problems begins with: I believe I can do it! Then we have to roll up our sleeves and go to work. Honestly, what other choice do we have?

Don't forget that a smile is the gateway to our heart. It shows us you care and when we smile back we also care. Have a great week!

RISING

From Page 11

This new compromise would also encourage more cooperation in the Senate by breaking up the Rota-Tinian voting bloc, while at the same time providing that bloc with an incentive to build support among Saipan senators. After all, with four out of nine votes, the Rota-Tinian bloc would only need one Saipan senator to form a simple majority.

But, most importantly, this new compromise would create checks and balances that protect the rights of the majority, without infringing on the rights of the minority. Because at the end of the day, it's not about numbers, it's not about who controls what, it's not about demagoguery. It's about people. It's about "we the people." And in any democracy, we must always strive to work together for the good of all, ensuring that no one—neither the majority nor the minority—is left behind.

As the Preamble to our own Constitution states, "We the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of our traditions and hopes for our Commonwealth."

All of us—the majority, the minority, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands—are included in "we the people." And I firmly believe that, regardless of which island we call home, we all share the same hopes for a better future for our islands, for our people, and for our Commonwealth. Thank you.

14th Annual Taste of the Marianas

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, second left, is joined by MVA board members, lawmakers, and American Memorial Park representatives in the cutting of the ribbon that marked the official start of the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

American Memorial Park chief ranger Dave Bauer welcomes guests to the annual festival as ranger Nancy Kelchner smiles on stage.

A tourist gets a henna tattoo at one of the art booths.

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team make their way to the stage for their performance.

Tyler Sasamoto dances with the rest of the Pacifica Flowers dance group.

A lion is seen visiting one of the 18 vendor booths at the festival grounds.

Six-year-old Ralph Torres holds out a crab he found while walking at the festival grounds.

Hotdog eating competition winners from left, third placer Juwon Jung, second placer Darwin Ubarra, and first placer Simon Necesito.

31st NMC Charter Day

Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID

Faculty members who volunteered to take on additional responsibilities without pay during the spring semester receive certificates of appreciation on stage.

Student of the Year awardee Keolester Buenpacifico, left, and Non-instructional Faculty of the Year awardee Judy Deleon Guerrero Torres and her daughter smile for the *Saipan Tribune*.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr. and corporate consultant David M. Sablan receive the Donor of the Year award, which was bestowed by the college for the first time this year.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Dr. Sharon Hart, NMC president, hold up the proclamation declaring May as NMC Month.

James Matsumoto, fifth right, is flanked by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Dr. Sharon Hart, and other college officials after being presented wiht the Farmer of the Year award.

Alejandro Badilles of NMC Rota campus, center, holds his certificates for winning the recipe contest.

Representatives of the Staff Team receive their trophy after beating the Students' Team in the sports contests held at the college.

Business

Thousands march as Japan shuts off all nuclear power

TOKYO (AP)—Thousands of Japanese marched to celebrate the switching off of the last of their nation's 50 nuclear reactors Saturday, waving banners shaped as giant fish that have become a potent anti-nuclear symbol.

Japan was without electricity from nuclear power for the first time in four decades when the reactor at Tomari nuclear plant on the northern island of Hokkaido went offline for mandatory routine maintenance.

After last year's March 11 quake and tsunami set off meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, no reactor halted for checkups has been restarted amid public worries about the safety of nuclear technology.

"Today is a historic day," Masashi Ishikawa shouted to a crowd gathered at a Tokyo park, some holding traditional "koinobori" carp-shaped banners for Children's Day that have become a symbol of the anti-nuclear movement.

"There are so many nuclear plants, but not a single one will be up and running today, and that's because of our efforts," Ishikawa said.

The activists said it is fitting that the day Japan stopped nuclear power coincides with Children's Day because of their concerns about protecting children from radiation, which Fukushima Dai-ichi is still spewing into the air and water.

The government has been eager to restart nuclear reactors, warning about blackouts and rising carbon emissions as Japan is forced to turn to oil and gas for energy.

AP

Participants hold a traditional "Koinobori" carp-shaped banner for Children's Day during a march protesting against the usage of nuclear energy in Tokyo Saturday, May 5, 2012.

Study ties fertility treatment, birth defect risk

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Test-tube babies have higher rates of birth defects, and doctors have long wondered: Is it because of certain fertility treatments or infertility itself? A large new study from Australia suggests both may play a role.

Compared to those conceived naturally, babies that resulted from simple IVF, or in vitro fertilization—mixing eggs and sperm in a lab dish—had no greater risk of birth defects once factors such as the mom's age and smoking were taken into account.

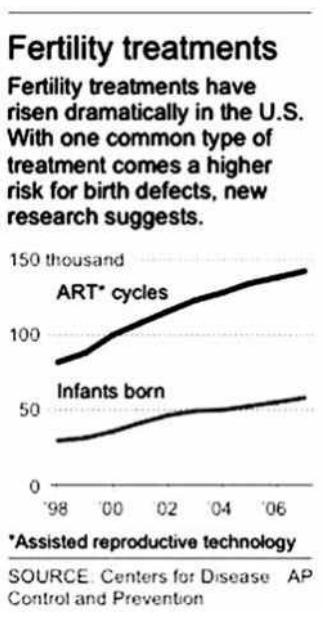
However, birth defects were more common if treatment included injecting a single sperm into an egg, which is done in many cases these days, especially if male infertility is involved. About 10 percent of babies born this way had birth defects versus 6 percent of those conceived naturally, the study found.

It could be that the extra jostling of egg and sperm does damage. Or that other problems lurk in the genes of sperm so defective they must be forced to fertilize an egg.

"I don't want to scare people," because the vast majority of babies are born healthy, said the study's leader, Michael Davies of the University of Adelaide in Australia.

Couples could use simple IVF without sperm injection, freeze the embryos and implant only one or two at a time, he said. All of those can cut the chance of a birth defect.

The study was published online Saturday by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at a fertility conference in Barcelona, Spain. Health agencies in Australia paid for the research.



Clinton to press India on Iran oil imports

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will use a two-day visit to India this week to urge further reductions in Indian imports of Iranian oil.

A senior official traveling with Clinton in Bangladesh ahead of her arrival in India on Sunday said the matter will be at the top of the secretary's agenda in talks with Indian leaders.

India, which has tremendous energy needs to fuel its rapid growth, has made some progress in easing its dependence on Iranian oil, but the official said the U.S. wants to see more.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview Clinton's private discussions in Kolkata and New Delhi, said the "trend lines are good" but "we really need to receive assurances that they are going to continue to make good progress."

The official noted that India had recently stepped up imports of oil from Saudi Arabia to make up for the reduction in Iranian oil and that the U.S. was eager to see the Indians explore other alternatives.

Like other major consumers of Iranian oil, India could face U.S. sanctions by the end of June if the Obama administration determines it has not made significant cuts in imports under a law aimed at squeezing Iran's petroleum industry to press the country to comply with international demands over its nuclear program.

A dozen European nations and Japan have already been spared from those sanctions after the administration determined they had substantially reduced their Iranian oil imports. India, along with China, South Korea, Turkey and South Africa have still not received such waivers.

The U.S. special envoy for global energy issues, Carlos Pasqual, will visit India later in May to follow up on Clinton's talks, the official said.

Nation

For families of 9/11 victims, Cuba hearing is new ordeal

NEW YORK (AP)—Moans, sighs and exclamations erupted Saturday as relatives of Sept. 11 victims watched four closed-circuit TV feeds from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that showed the self-proclaimed mastermind of the attacks and co-defendants trying to slow their arraignment, a move that drew outbursts from viewers of "c'mon, are you kidding me?"

"It's actually a joke, it feels ridiculous," said Jim Riches, whose firefighter son, Jimmy, died at the World Trade Center. Riches watched the hearing from a movie theater at Fort Hamilton in New York City, one of four U.S. military bases where the arraignment was broadcast live for victims' family members, survivors and emergency personnel who responded to the attacks.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other defendants were arraigned on charges that include terrorism and murder, the first time in more than three years that they appeared in public. During the hearing, they generally refused to cooperate. At one point, one detainee leafed through a copy of The Economist magazine, then passed it to another. At other times, defendants knelt in prayer.

Like other family members, Riches expressed frustration about the proceedings.

"It's been a mess for 11 years," Riches said as he stood in the rain during a break in the proceedings and described the atmosphere inside. And after his first glimpse inside the military courtroom, he said, "It looks like it's going to be a very long trial. ... They want what they want."

Riches, himself a retired firefighter who worked digging up remains in the days after Sept. 11, said he carried with him dark memories of the days after the attacks, and he hoped that if convicted the five men would be executed.

"I saw what they did to our loved ones—crushed them to pieces," he said.

Obama plunges into campaign, tears into Romney

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Plunging into his campaign for a new term, President Barack Obama tore into Mitt Romney on Saturday as a willing and eager "rubber stamp" for conservative Republicans in Congress and an agenda to cut taxes for the rich, reduce spending on education and Medicare and enhance power that big banks and insurers hold over consumers.

Obama

Romney and his "friends in Congress think the same bad ideas will lead to a different result or they're just hoping you won't remember what happened the last time you tried it their way," the president told an audience estimated at over 10,000 partisans at what aides insisted was his first full-fledged political rally of the election year.

Six months before Election Day, the polls point to a close race between Obama and Romney, with the economy the overriding issue as the nation struggles to recover from the worst recession since the 1930s. Unemployment remains stubbornly high at 8.1 percent nationally, although it has receded slowly and unevenly since peaking several months into the president's term. The most recent dip was due to discouraged jobless giving up their search for work.

Romney has staked his candidacy on an understanding of the economy, developed through a successful career as a businessman, and his promise to enact policies that stimulate job creation.

But Obama said his rival was merely doing the bidding of the conservative powerbrokers in Congress and has little understanding of the struggles of average Americans.

Romney "doesn't seem to understand that maximizing profits by whatever means necessary, whether it's through layoffs or outsourcing or tax avoidance, union busting, might not always be good for the average American or for the American economy," the president said.

2 bodies found in Miss. amid search for mom, girls

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Two unidentified bodies have been found at a Mississippi residence associated with a man suspected of abducting a Tennessee woman and her three young daughters, who are believed to be in "extreme danger," authorities said Saturday.

FBI spokesman Joel Siskovic said the bodies were found late Friday night or early Saturday morning in a residence associated with Adam Mayes, 35.

Mayes is charged in Tennessee with abducting Jo Ann Bain and her daughters. He has been described by authorities as "armed and extremely dangerous."

Siskovic said authorities on the scene were not able to positively identify the bodies. He would not say if the bodies were children.

The missing girls are 8-year-old Kyliyah Bain, 12-year-old Alexandria and 14-year-old Adrienne. They were last seen April 27 in Hardeman County, Tenn., which is about 70 miles east of Memphis. The woman's husband reported her missing and her vehicle was found abandoned.

AP

This combo image made of undated photos provided by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety shows, clockwise from top left, Jo Ann Bain and her daughters, Adrienne, 14, Kyliyah 8, and Alexandria,12.

Authorities were still trying to determine if Jo Ann Bain went with Mayes willingly. He was last seen Tuesday in Guntown, Miss., about 80 miles southeast of Hardeman County, Tenn. He'd been described as a family friend.

The FBI and U.S. Marshals Service announced Saturday a reward of up to $50,000 for information that leads to the location of the missing victims and the arrest of Mayes.

Siskovic said the bodies were found in a residence, but it wasn't clear if it was a house, mobile home or apartment. He also wasn't sure if the residence belonged to Mayes or an acquaintance. Siskovic said the bodies were found in Guntown, north of Tupelo. Lee County coroner Carolyn Green said the bodies were found outside Guntown in Union County.

Asia

Afghan child bride's in-laws get prison terms for torture

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The in-laws of a child bride who became the bruised and bloodied face of women's rights in Afghanistan have been sentenced to 10 years in prison for torture, abuse and human rights violations, a judge said Saturday.

The plight of 15-year-old Sahar Gul captivated the nation and set off a storm of international condemnation when it came to light in late December. Officials said her husband's family kept her in a basement for six months after her arranged marriage, ripping out her fingernails, breaking her fingers and torturing her with hot irons in an attempt to force her into prostitution.

She was rescued by police in northeastern Baghlan province after an uncle alerted authorities.

Gul's husband's father, mother and sister were each sentenced to 10 years in prison by a court in Kabul on Tuesday, presiding judge Sibghatullah Razi said.

Also found guilty were Gul's husband, a member of the Afghan army, and her brother-in-law, both of whom have been on the run since her case became public, Razi said. He said the men will be sentenced when they are captured.

Gul was present for the decision, telling the court that she wanted her in-laws "severely punished" for what they had put her through, Razi said. She has filed an appeal for a longer sentence with the help of the Women for Afghan Women, a group that works for women's rights in the country and has been caring for the teenager since her rescue.

AP

In this Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012 file photo, Afghan doctors, unseen, dress the tortured ear of Sahar Gul, 15-year-old at a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"Of course we are not happy with the court's decision," said Huma Safi, program manager for the group.

Gul's case has prompted calls for more efforts to strengthen women's rights and end underage marriage. The legal marriage age in Afghanistan is 16, but the United Nations agency UN Women estimates that half of all girls are forced to marry under age 15.

There has been progress in women's rights since the 2001 U.S.-led campaign that toppled the Taliban regime, which banned girls' schools and prevented women from leaving the house unless accompanied by a male relative.

But ending abuse remains a huge challenge in Afghanistan's patriarchal society, where traditional practices include child marriage, giving girls away to settle debts or pay for their relatives' crimes and so-called honor killings in which women seen as disgracing their families are murdered by their relatives.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Grenade blast kills 2, wounds 30 in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials in the Philippines say a powerful grenade explosion has killed two people and wounded at least 30 others outside a crowded bar in the south of the country. Army Col. Daniel Lucero says investigators are trying to identify the attackers who left or lobbed the grenade that exploded late Saturday outside the El Sentro Resto Bar in Iligan city. Police found the pin of the grenade, which also damaged a number of parked cars and sent people fleeing in panic. Lucero said Sunday it remained unclear if Muslim rebels, al-Qaida-linked militants or extortion gangs were behind the blast or if it was sparked by feuding civilians.

Officials: US drone strike kills 8 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—An American drone fired a volley of missiles into a house close to the Afghan border on Saturday, killing eight suspected militants and indicating U.S. resolve to continue with the attacks despite renewed Pakistani opposition, officials said. The strike in North Waziristan was the second American drone operation in Pakistan this week. Up to eight missiles were fired at a house in the Dra Nishtar area of North Waziristan early Saturday, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

13 killed in floods near Nepal's Mount Annapurna

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Flash floods from a mountain river swept away dozens of people along with their cattle and houses in western Nepal, officials said. Police official Shailesh Thapa said 13 bodies have been recovered from the Seti river south of Mount Annapurna in Kaski district. Police were searching for dozens of missing people, including three Russian tourists who were trekking in the area, Thapa said. The flooding reached the tourist resort town of Pokhara, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Katmandu.

Expressway accidents in China kill 12, injure 19

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say 12 people have been killed and 19 others injured in two back-to-back highway accidents in southwest China. The official Xinhua News Agency says that a truck hit a car Saturday afternoon on an expressway between Shantou and Kunming cities, killing three and injuring two. Xinhua says an 11-vehicle pileup then occurred 14 minutes later and 410 feet (125 meters) away on the same highway. The second accident killed nine people and injured 17 others. Xinhua says the causes of the accidents are under investigation.

Fire in South Korean karaoke bar kills 9 people

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A fire has torn through a karaoke bar in South Korea, killing nine people. Police said Sunday the victims were drinking and singing at the karaoke lounge in the southeastern port city of Busan when the blaze broke out Saturday night. Busan police say they believe three Sri Lankan men and six other South Koreans have died after inhaling toxic gases. Police say the fire has left 25 other people injured and one of them is in serious condition. Police say the cause of the fire is under investigation.

World

9/11 suspects ignore the judge

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—They knelt in prayer, ignored the judge and wouldn't listen to Arabic translations as they confronted nearly 3,000 counts of murder. The self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and four co-defendants defiantly disrupted an arraignment that ended late Saturday in the opening act of the long-stalled effort to prosecute them in a military court.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the admitted architect of the 2001 attacks that sent hijacked jetliners into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the four men accused of aiding the conspiracy put off entering pleas until a later date. Another hearing was set for June 12.

Saturday's arraignment, which should have taken a couple of hours at most, lasted almost 13 hours, including meal and prayer breaks, as the men appeared to make a concerted effort to stall the hearing at the U.S. military base in Cuba.

At one point, Mohammed cast off his earphones providing Arabic translations of the proceeding and refused to answer Army Col. James Pohl's questions or acknowledge he understood them. All five men refused to participate in the hearing; two passed around a copy of The Economist magazine and leafed through the articles.

Walid bin Attash was confined to a restraint chair when he came into court, released only after he promised to behave.

Ramzi Binalshibh began praying alongside his defense table, followed by Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, in the middle of the hearing; Binalshibh then launched into a tirade in which he compared a prison official to the late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and declared that he was in danger.

"Maybe they will kill me and say I committed suicide," he said in a mix of Arabic and broken English.

The detainees' lawyers spent hours questioning the judge about his qualifications to hear the case and suggested their clients were being mistreated at the hearing, in a strategy that could pave the way for future appeals. Mohammed was subjected to a strip search and "inflammatory and unnecessary" treatment before court, said his attorney, David Nevin.

5 killed in Syria's restive Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—A bomb struck a car wash Saturday in Aleppo, killing at least five people, a day after government troops opened fire to break up large protests against a violent university raid in Syria's largest city.

Aleppo, an important economic hub, has largely stayed out of the revolt against President Bashar Assad that erupted nearly 14 months ago, but the raid on Aleppo University that killed four students earlier in the week has swelled the crowds of protesters.

On Friday, thousands marched against the university crackdown in what activists said were the largest protests in the city yet. However, it remained unclear if the regime is losing major ground in Aleppo.

Bomb attacks have become more common in Aleppo and the capital of Damascus, often targeting buildings associated with the security services, as the uprising grows increasingly militarized. However, the rebel Free Syrian Army, one of the largest armed groups, denied reports that it had claimed responsibility for Saturday's blast.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on activists inside Syria, said five people were killed in the blast at the car wash.

Aleppo activist Mohammed Saeed said the car wash in the city's southern Sukari neighborhood was owned by a man who serves in pro-government militias known as the shabiha. He put the death toll at six.

It was impossible to independently verify the casualty toll or other activist claims because Assad's regime has prevented most media from working freely in the country.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ahmadinejad's support crumbles in Iran runoff

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's support in Iran's parliament crumbled as final results released Saturday showed conservative rivals consolidating their hold on the legislative body in a runoff vote. Iran has touted a robust turnout for Friday's vote as a show of support for the country's religious leadership in its confrontation with the West over the Islamic Republic's controversial nuclear program. The result is also a new humiliation for Ahmadinejad, whose political decline started last year with his bold but failed challenge of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over the choice of intelligence chief.

Fire at Peru rehab center kills 14

CHOSICA, Peru (AP)—A predawn fire swept through a drug rehabilitation center in a town on Lima's outskirts Saturday, killing 14 people in the second blaze in Peru this year to claim the lives of addicts trapped behind locked doors in a private treatment residence. The only known survivor of the blaze at the Sacred Heart of Jesus clinic escaped by jumping from the building's second floor after the blaze broke out about 4 a.m., his brother said. Local health director Pablo Cespedes said officials don't yet know what caused the blaze. Thirteen bodies were found in bedrooms on the second floor and one on the first floor of the two-story home in Chosica, about 19 miles (32 kilometers) east of Lima, the coastal capital, he said.

Putin returns to presidency in a changed Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency on Monday will technically give him greater powers than he wielded as prime minister. The irony is that his position will be arguably weaker than at any time since he first came to power more than 12 years ago. In part because of the heavy-handed way in which he reclaimed the presidency, Putin finds himself the leader of a changed country, where a growing portion of society is no longer willing to silently tolerate a government that denies its citizens a political voice. How Putin responds to the calls for free elections and accountable government will help define his next six years in office and to a great extent determine the future of Russia itself.

Polls open in France's overseas territories

PARIS (AP)—Voters in France's overseas territories began casting ballots for Nicolas Sarkozy or Francois Hollande on Saturday in a presidential election that could affect everything from Europe's efforts to fight its debt crisis to how long French troops stay in Afghanistan. The final polls show Sarkozy making up ground on his Socialist challenger before Sunday's election in France—but still suggest a Hollande victory. Campaigning and the release of poll data have been suspended until the results of the run-off election come in Sunday evening.

Focus

Race, religion collide in US presidential campaign

By JESSE WASHINGTON and RACHEL ZOLL
AP NATIONAL WRITERS

How unthinkable it was, not so long ago, that a presidential election would pit a candidate fathered by an African against another condemned as un-Christian.

Yet here it is: Barack Obama versus Mitt Romney, an African-American and a white Mormon, representatives of two groups and that have endured oppression to carve out a place in the United States.

How much progress has America made against bigotry? By November, we should have some idea.

Perhaps mindful of the lingering power of prejudice, both men soft-pedal their status as racial or religious pioneers. But these things "will be factors whether they're explicitly stated or not, because both Obama and Romney are minorities," said Nancy Wadsworth, co-editor of the anthology "Faith and Race in American Political Life."

Mormons are 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, according to the Pew Research Center. African-Americans are 12.6 percent

"Americans like to obsess about ways that people are different," said Wadsworth, a political science professor at the University of Denver. Voters of all types say that a candidate's race or religious beliefs should not be cause for bias, "but Americans are really conflicted about this, and they talk out of both sides of their mouth."

In an October 2011 Associated Press-GfK poll, 21 percent of respondents said they would be less likely to cast a presidential vote for a Mormon. Four percent said they would be less likely to vote for a black person. An AP poll during the 2008 campaign found that nearly 40 percent of white Americans had at least a partly negative view of black people.

The gap between America's high-minded ideals and narrow-minded practice is not new.

In 1620, the Puritans landed on Plymouth Rock searching for religious freedom. The Constitution forbade a religious test for president. Still, the religion of presidential candidates historically has been a major issue, though nearly all have been Protestant.

Thomas Jefferson, who coined the phrase "separation between church and state," was decried as godless. Nearly 160 years later, John F. Kennedy was tarred as a Roman Catholic who would answer to the pope instead of the American people.

In 1787, the same colonists who had demanded equal rights in their dealings with England wrote a Constitution that reduced blacks to three-fifths of a person. Nearly 80 years would pass before that changed and another century before blacks would be assured the vote.

Obama remains the sole member of the most exclusive club in the world, racial minorities who were nominated for president by a major party.

In 2012, it's unlikely that more than a smattering of die-hard bigots will be repelled by both presidential choices. But even well-intentioned people can be influenced by the powerful emotional pull of these issues.

Obama has been assailed by racially charged accusations since he became the first black president: Obama isn't a citizen; he refused to punish New Black Panthers who intimidated white voters; he's seeking payback for past white racism by redistributing tax money to poor minorities; he's using the Trayvon Martin killing for political gain.

Wes Anderson, a Republican consultant and pollster, said many white swing voters who chose Obama in 2008 think he has governed further to the left than they expected, which has fed ideas that Obama is a typical "black liberal politician" who is "pandering to minorities."

"From their perspective, I think race will be a convenient excuse for why he has not met their expectations," Anderson said.

Wadsworth said that even after three-plus years of a black president, racial bias remains "super-loaded and super-coded."

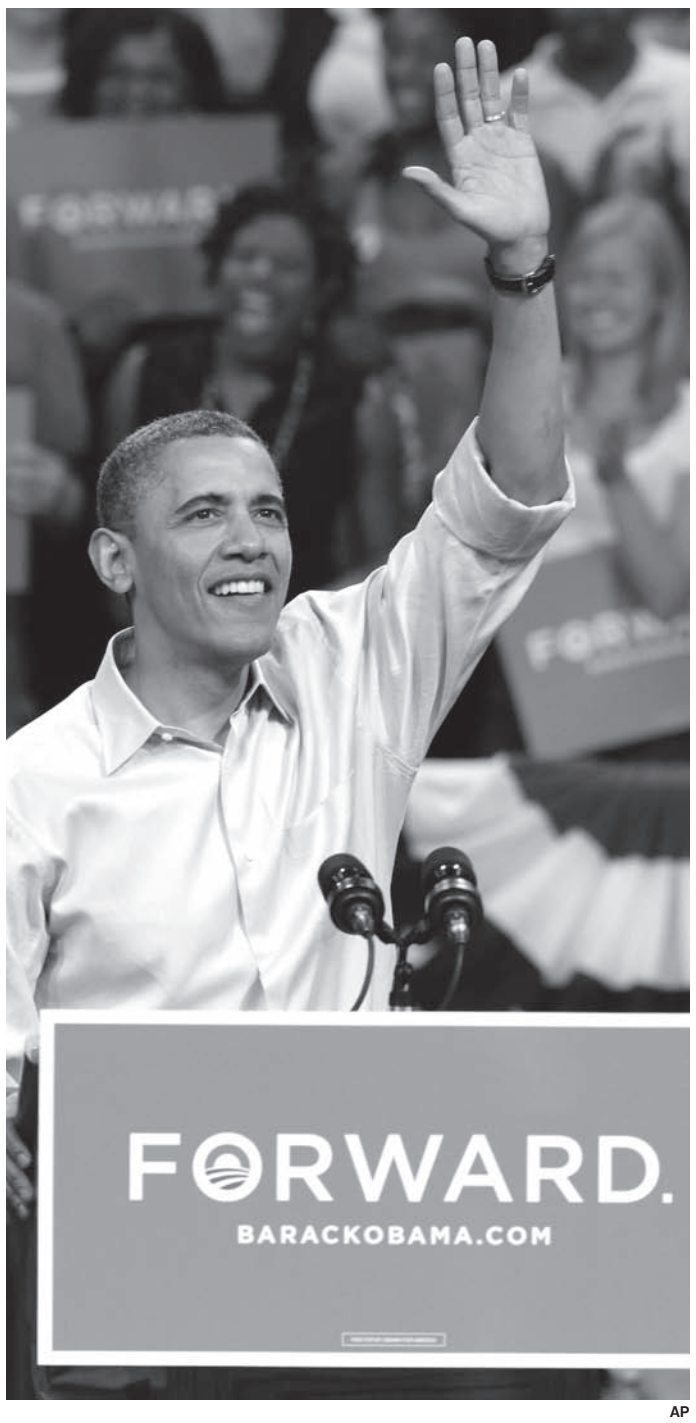
"It's coded into political `otherness'—he's a socialist, he's dangerous, maybe a Muslim," she said. "I think down underneath there's a lot of race bias, it's just that they've figured out ways to channel that into seemingly race-neutral codes."

Then there's bald racism.

This April, bar owner Patrick Lanzo in Paulding County, Ga., posted a roadside sign outside his establishment that used the n-word to convey his disdain for the president. "I don't feel bad about (the sign) whatsoever," Lanzo told Fox 5 News in Atlanta.

Obviously, Obama's victory in 2008 did not put racial issues to rest. "He is never on stable ground, racially," Wadsworth observed.

Romney has tried to push past anti-Mormonism, with mixed success. His membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been an issue his entire political career.



AP
President Barack Obama waves to the crowd during a campaign rally at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., Saturday, May 5, 2012.

In 2007, during his presidential primary battle against Arizona Sen. John McCain, he gave a speech to quiet concerns about his faith. "I do not define my candidacy by my religion. A person should not be elected because of his faith nor should he be rejected because of his faith," Romney said in the address, which used the word "Mormon" only once.

There continue to be blatant expressions of hostility toward Mormons. For example, there is an "I Hate Mormons" page on Facebook.

But J.B. Haws, a historian at Brigham Young University who researches public perception of the Mormon church, said most common suspicions about Mormons were rehashed in the 2008 election and this year's GOP primary, so moving forward the discussion is likely to be more substantive and informed.

"But that doesn't change the fact that the questions will still be tough and pointed," Haws said.

The Mormon church was founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith, who said God directed him to restore the true Christian church by revising parts of the Bible and adding the Book of Mormon as a sacred text. Smith said an angel directed him to a buried holy book in upstate New York, written on golden plates, which he translated from "reformed Egyptian" into the Book of Mormon. Theological differences have led many Christians to conclude that Mormons are not part of historic Christianity.

There's the issue of polygamy, though the Mormon church renounced the practice in 1890.

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, recently took the opportunity of a Daily Beast interview to say that Romney's father, George, was "born into (a) polygamy commune in Mexico." (Mitt Romney's grandfather, Gaskell, had one wife, but his great-grandfather, Miles Park Romney, had four and fled to Mexico in 1885 to escape U.S. anti-polygamy laws.)

One of the toughest questions probably will focus on the Mormons' former ban on men of African descent in the priesthood. When the church lifted the prohibition in 1978, leaders didn't explain the theology behind it. That left questions about church doctrine on race, even though Mormon leaders repeatedly denounce racism.

It's an issue that Mormons discuss among themselves. But when it's brought up in a campaign setting, many Mormons say it's just an attempt to embarrass Romney.

Several conservatives have recently predicted that liberals, rankled by Mormon opposition to gay marriage and emphasis on stay-at-home motherhood, would use religion to "smear" Romney. "It's way out of bounds, but that's what's going to happen," said a prominent Mormon, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

But liberals are not the only ones who are suspicious of the Mormons. Vice President Joe Biden told Esquire magazine that faith shouldn't be a factor in elections, so "that's why I'm so angry about the way they're treating Romney." By "they," Biden probably was focusing on evangelicals, who make up a big part of the GOP base.

When Liberty University, the school founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, announced Romney as commencement speaker on May 12, hundreds of angry comments were posted on Liberty's Facebook page by people who said they were students or alumni, objecting to giving a Mormon a platform. The school responded by affirming its welcome to Romney.

But evangelicals are among the country's most politically conservative voters, and "they're going to hold their nose and vote for Romney. They're certainly not going to join the Obama campaign," said Patrick Mason, author of "The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South."

Anderson, the pollster, said his research has found that evangelicals know more than other groups about what Mormons actually believe, and despite their religious differences tend to view Mormon values as positive.

"Is the bigger problem for Romney not evangelical Christians, but more secular voters who are skeptical of what Mormonism is, or just ignorant?" Anderson asked.

Perhaps it is just their growing hostility to religion in general, Mason said. "Mormonism becomes the lens through which they can paint their critique."

Regardless, the Romney campaign "would be crazy if they didn't have a plan in place already" to deal with Mormon bias, said Mark Noll, a University of Notre Dame historian who wrote "God and Race in American Politics," "just like Obama's people are just dusting off whatever they had ready in 2008."

In 2008, racial issues threatened to torpedo Obama after the emergence of militant pro-black sermons by his former pastor, Jeremiah Wright. Obama defused the issue with a major speech on race, but the Wright connection fed a GOP narrative that Obama was not "one of us." Democrats labeled such statements coded language that appealed to racial prejudices.

In the final stages of his losing campaign, McCain declined entreaties from some advisers to use Wright's sermons to attack Obama.

"John McCain, whatever else you want to say about him, did not use all the racial weapons he could have used," said Randall Kennedy, a Harvard Law School professor and author of "The Persistence of the Color Line: Racial Politics and the Obama Presidency."

"Well, McCain lost," Kennedy continued. "I can't help but think that this time around, if there is anything that could plausibly be used, no matter how ugly, it will be used. So I anticipate a very messy, ugly campaign."

"I hope I'm wrong," Kennedy said, "but I expect it to be worse."

Health & Fitness

Breast cancer is rare in men, but they fare worse

CHICAGO (AP)—Men rarely get breast cancer, but those who do often don't survive as long as women, largely because they don't even realize they can get it and are slow to recognize the warning signs, researchers say.

On average, women with breast cancer lived two years longer than men in the biggest study yet of the disease in males.

The study found that men's breast tumors were larger at diagnosis, more advanced and more likely to have spread to other parts of the body. Men were also diagnosed later in life; in the study, they were 63 on average, versus 59 for women.

Many men have no idea that they can get breast cancer, and some doctors are in the dark, too, dismissing symptoms that would be an automatic red flag in women, said study leader Dr. Jon Greif, a breast cancer surgeon in Oakland, Calif.

The American Cancer Society estimates 1 in 1,000 men will get breast cancer, versus 1 in 8 women. By comparison, 1 in 6 men will get prostate cancer, the most common cancer in men.

"It's not really been on the radar screen to think about breast cancer in men," said Dr. David Winchester, a breast cancer surgeon in NorthShore University HealthSystem in suburban Chicago who was not involved in the study. Winchester treats only a few men with breast cancer each year, compared with at least 100 women.

The researchers analyzed 10 years of national data on breast cancer cases, from 1998 to 2007. A total of 13,457 male patients diagnosed during those years were included, versus 1.4 million women. The database contains about 75 percent of all U.S. breast cancer cases.

The men who were studied lived an average of about eight years after being diagnosed, compared with more than 10 years for women. The study doesn't indicate whether patients died of breast cancer or something else.

Greif prepared a summary of his study for presentation Friday at a meeting of American Society of Breast Surgeons in Phoenix.

Dr. Akkamma Ravi, a breast cancer specialist at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, said the research bolsters results in smaller studies and may help raise awareness. Because the disease is so rare in men, research is pretty scant, and doctors are left to treat it the same way they manage the disease in women, she said.

Some doctors said one finding in the study suggests men's breast tumors might be biologically different from women's: Men with early-stage disease had worse survival rates than women with early-stage cancer. But men's older age at diagnosis also might explain that result, Greif said.

The causes of breast cancer in men are not well-studied, but some of the same things that increase women's chances for developing it also affect men, including older age, cancer-linked gene mutations, a family history of the disease, and heavy drinking.

There are no formal guidelines for detecting breast cancer in men. The American Cancer Society says routine, across-the-board screening of men is unlikely to be beneficial because the disease is so rare.

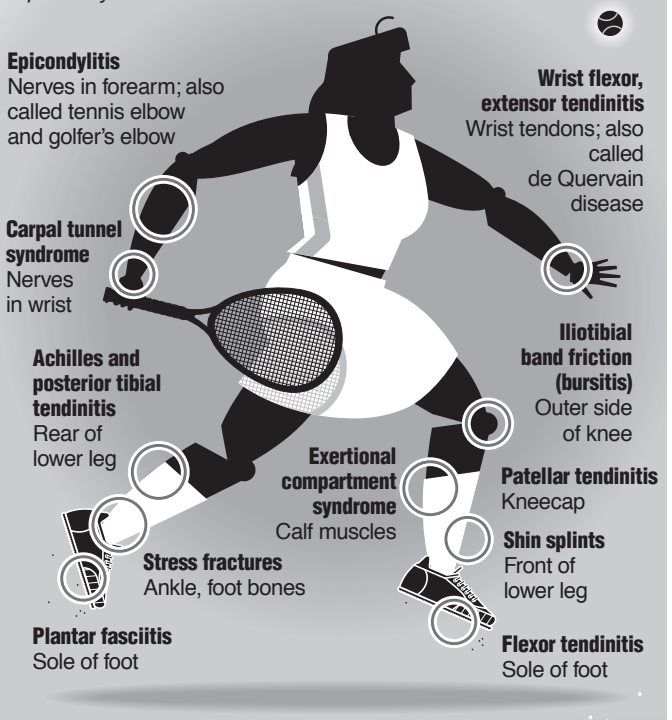
AP

In this May 3, 2012 photo, a surgery scar is seen on breast cancer survivor Robert Kaitz's left breast in his home in Severna Park, Md.

Personal Trainer

When stress leads to 'overuse'

These are common overuse injuries, which develop when "microtrauma" builds up in a part of the body that has been repeatedly stressed.



Still not well understood

The process that causes overuse injury is complex and can involve any of these:

- Repetitive motions
- Forceful exertion
- Awkward posture
- Exposure to cold or vibration
- Psychological stress and fatigue

Source: "Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care," American Academy of Surgeons
Graphic: Paul Trap

© 2012 MCT

In Remembrance of

Emelita Mauricio Kisa

Lovingly known as "Emy"
was born to life on
October 15, 1944 and was called
to eternal rest on April 1, 2012

Memorial Service will be held on May 10, 2012 from 3:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.,
at the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in the Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Memorial Mass will be offered at 5:00 p.m.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

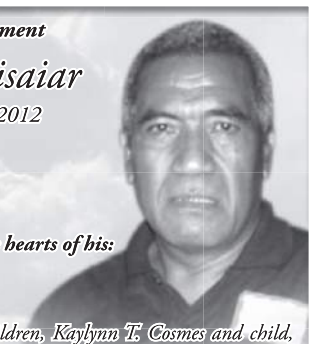
Thank You – Salamat Po' – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Death and Funeral Announcement

†*Casimiro Satur Igisaiar*

February 16, 1957 – April 30, 2012



In his new life he now joins his:
Father: *Francisco T. Igisaiar, and three (3) grandchildren*

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Sachary T. Igisaiar*
Mother: *Adelina S. Igisaiar*
Mother in-law: *Aniwisa K. Nusun*
Daughters: *Merlynn I. Igisaiar & children, Kaylynn T. Cosmes and child, Roxanne T. Cosmes/ Isaac Itaman, Sarah T. Igisaiar/ Marco Pua, Diana T. Igisaiar/ Sonny John and child, Iufita T. Cosmes/ James Sam & child, Viola T. Igisaiar*
Sons: *Mui Muna, Dickson T. Cosmes, Cosmes T. Cosmes/ Florence Peter and children, Mathew Tateus Igisaiar*
Niece: *Minta Robert/ Dinisio Haddy and children*

Sisters: *Lourdes S. Igisaiar/ Larry and child, Vivian S. Igisaiar and children, Maria Joaquina Igisaiar/ Joe and children*
Brothers: *Alanso S. Igisaiar, Emery S. Igisaiar/ Rita and children*

Brother in-law: *Joe T. Nusun and children*

He will also be missed by numerous godchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

On Monday, May 7, 2012 his remains will be escorted from CHC to the family residence in Kagman III at 3:00 p.m. where the body will lay in state overnight.

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 his remains will be escorted from the family residence to Santa Soledad Church at 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

Thank You – Oloomway – Kilisou

The Family

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of our Beloved

Jesus Fujihira Santos

We the family, of the late Jesus Fujihira Santos would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Mass will be offered at the Kristo Rai Church at 6am everyday, from Tuesday, May 1, 2012 to Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

On the last day, Wednesday, May 9, 2012, breakfast will be served at the Kristo Rai Social Hall immediately after the mass.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

From Eulalia (Lily) Carreon Santos, Jessamin, Jessie and Families.

The benevolent Beastie: Adam Yauch remembered

NEW YORK (AP)—When the Beastie Boys were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame just weeks ago, the New York trio was down a man.

Michael "Mike D" Diamond and Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz took the stage with a letter from their missing band mate: Adam "MCA" Yauch, who was too ill to attend. He was suffering from a cancerous salivary gland first diagnosed in 2009.

In the letter, which Horovitz read, Yauch dedicated the honor to his fellow B-Boys, "who have walked the globe with me."

"To anyone who has been touched by our band, who our music has meant something to, this induction is as much ours as it is yours," said Yauch.

It was typical generosity from Yauch, the gravelly-voiced rapper who helped make the Beastie Boys one of the seminal groups in hip-hop and whose good-hearted nature led him to humanistic causes and made him beloved in hip-hop. One of his most famous rhymes was a sweet ode to women, which he called "long overdue": "To all the mothers and sisters and wives and friends/ I want to offer my love and respect to the end."

When the news came Friday that earlier that morning, Yauch, 47, had died after a nearly three-year battle with cancer, the words from his letter felt particularly apt. The outpouring of sadness at the loss, and celebration of the music Yauch helped created, was immediate and vast, shared across social media by those close to him, rappers

AP

In this 1989 file photo originally provided by Capitol Records, members of the Beastie Boys, from left, from left, Adam Horovitz, known as Adrock, Michael Diamond, known as Mike D and Adam Yauch, known as MCA, are shown.

influenced by "Paul's Boutique" and hip-hop listeners raised on Beastie Boys videos.

The rapper Q-Tip, a member of another major New York hip-hop group, A Tribe Called Quest, recalled that the Beastie Boys "showed us the ropes." Sean "Diddy" Combs called Yauch "a true pioneer and a creative force who paved the way for so many of us." The rapper Nas lamented the loss of a "brother": "MCA was so cool," he said.

For Eminem, Yauch was an undeniable touchstone: "I think it's obvious to anyone how big an influence the Beastie Boys were on me and so many others."

Yauch was an integral, founding member to the ever-weaving trio: three Jewish kids from New York who found widespread respect in a hip-hop world with few credible white performers.

In a span of more than a quarter century that covered four No. 1 albums and more than 40 million records sold, the Beastie Boys played both prankster and pioneer- a simultaneously goofy and groundbreaking act that helped bring hip-hop to the mainstream.

The demure, gray-haired Yauch wasn't the most boastful B-Boy; he was the thoughtful one and a steady source of the trio's innovative spirit. A practicing Buddhist, he led the group in performing concerts to benefit Tibet and, as a filmmaker, he helped create their imagery.

"The group's music crossed genres and color lines, and helped bring rap to a wider audience," said Neil Portnow, president of the Recording Academy. "Yauch was an immense talent and creative visionary."

Adam Nathanial Yauch, born in Brooklyn, formed the Beastie Boys with high school friend Diamond. Originally conceived as a hardcore punk group, they played their first show on Yauch's 17th birthday.

In the letter read at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction, Yauch recalled their early days at his parents' home in Brooklyn, "where we used to practice on hot Brooklyn summer days after school, windows open to disturb the neighborhood."

The group became a hip-hop trio soon after Horovitz joined and coalesced after Yauch dropped out of Bard College two years into his studies. They released their chart-topping debut "Licensed to Ill" in 1986, a raucous album led by the anthem "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!)".

It was the first hip-hop album to top the Billboard chart, and while it remains popular, its irreverent rock-rap fusion bore few hints of an act with staying power.

"Adam was incredibly sweet and the most sensitive artist, who I loved dearly," Russell Simmons, whose Def Jam label released "Licensed to Ill," said on his website.

In the seven studio albums that followed, the Beastie Boys expanded sonically and grew more musically ambitious.

Their follow-up, 1989's "Paul's Boutique," ended any suggestion that the group was a one-hit wonder. Extreme in its sampling and thoroughly layered, the album (produced by the Dust Brothers) was ranked the 156th greatest album ever by Rolling Stone magazine in 2003.

The Beastie Boys would later take up their own instruments—a rarity in hip-hop—on the album "Check Your Head" and subsequent releases. Yauch played bass. Later, they would even release an album of instrumentals, which won one of their three Grammys in 2007.

On "Pass the Mic," he rapped: "If you can feel what I'm feeling then it's a musical masterpiece / If you can hear what I'm dealing with then that's cool at least / What's running through my mind comes through in my walk / True feelings are shown from the way that I talk."

For many, the Beastie Boys' lyrics—overflowing torrents of wit, humor and rhyme—were always the main draw. While other forms of hip-hop celebrated individualism, the Beastie Boys were a verbal tag team. Yauch once rapped, "on the tough guy style I'm not too keen."

Their popularity perhaps peaked with 1994's "Ill Communication," which spawned several of their most famous music videos, including "Sure Shot" and the Spike Jonze-directed "Sabotage"—a hit highlighted by Yauch's bass solo. (MTV, which played a key role in the Beasties' rise, hurriedly assembled an hour-long tribute show to Yauch on Friday night.)

'Avengers' scores No. 2 opening day with $80.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lots of superheroes add up to lots of money for "The Avengers."

The film featuring a team of Marvel Comics heroes pulled in $80.5 million in its domestic debut Friday, the second-best haul ever on opening day.

"The Avengers" trails only last year's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," which took in $91.1 million in its first day on the way to a record weekend of $169.2 million.

The huge opening for "The Avengers" launches what's expected to be a colossal summer for Hollywood, whose domestic revenues already were running 14 percent ahead of last year's going into the weekend.

Summer season began a year ago with the Marvel Comics adventure "Thor," one of the solo superhero sagas that led to "The Avengers." "Thor" earned a respectable $65.7 million for the entire weekend, while "The Avengers" brought in far more than that in a single day.

The superhero summer continues through July with two more blockbusters in the making: "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Dark Knight Rises."

Produced by Disney's Marvel Studios unit, "The Avengers" already is more than halfway toward beating the opening weekends of the second and third films on the debut charts.

AP

In this film image released by Disney, Chris Hemsworth portrays Thor, left, and and Chris Evans portrays Captain America in a scene from "The Avengers," expected to be released on May 4, 2012.

At No. 2 is "The Dark Knight" with $158.4 million in its first three days, while this spring's blockbuster "The Hunger Games" is No. 3 with $152.5 million.

"The Avengers" opened a week earlier in many overseas markets, where it has pulled in blockbuster cash in a matter of days. The film added $30.3 million internationally Friday, bringing its overseas haul to $334.3 million. Adding in its first-day domestic receipts, "The Avengers" has climbed to a worldwide total of $414.8 million.

Directed by Joss Whedon ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer"), "The Avengers" stars Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Mark Ruffalo as the Incredible Hulk, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, Chris Evans as Captain America, Chris Hemsworth as Thor and Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye.

Samuel L. Jackson plays Nick Fury, the superhero recruiter who teams them up to fight off an invasion of Earth plotted by Thor's wicked brother (Tom Hiddleston).

Trophies and laughs await on 'The Comedy Awards'

NEW YORK (AP)—The notion that TV viewers need another awards show may be laughable.

Exactly. "The Comedy Awards," which began last year, celebrates the art of comedy. And this year's presentation, which airs Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on Comedy Central, is a funny affair packed with masters of mirthmaking including Ty Burrell, Tina Fey, Chris Parnell, Maya Rudolph, Adam Scott and Jim Carrey.

Taped April 28 at New York's Hammerstein Auditorium, the gala event salutes comedy achievements in standup, TV, films and digital.

Robin Williams gets the Standup Icon Award.

Don Rickles is honored with the Johnny Carson Award For Comedic Excellence, presented by Jon Stewart and Robert De Niro (who demonstrates his own shortcomings as a standup, bobbling wisecracks such as telling Rickles, "I've always thought of you as a comedian and actor. But since we did `Casino' together, I've come to think of you as, well, more of a comedian").

"Rango" is the best animated comedy film. French actor (and Oscar winner) Jean Dujardin is named best film actor for "The Artist."

NBC's "Parks and Recreation" is chosen as best comedy series, and its star, Amy Poehler, is named best actress, while FX's "Louie" is the best sketch/alternative comedy series. Best club comic: Hannibal Buress.

Most of the two dozen categories were judged by 1500 working members of the comedy community, choosing from nominees selected by a board of directors comprising such names as Carol Burnett, James Burrows, Stephen Colbert, Budd Friedman, Conan O'Brien, Joan Rivers, George Schlatter, Jon Stewart and Lily Tomlin.

But several categories are left to the public, who, through airtime on Sunday, can make their picks on the Comedy Awards website to choose: the funniest person on Twitter; best comedy podcast; best comedy app; and best remix, mash-up or supercut.

The two-hour telecast begins with a bang as Chris Rock announces the year's best comedy special, among whose five nominees, he jokes, "Three are funny. One used to be funny. And one was NEVER funny!"

Taking the award is the online standup special "Louis C.K.: Live at the Beacon Theater."

The winner as best comedy director of a film (for "Bridesmaids"), Paul Feig, plies his craft by directing Will Arnett in a performance reading Feig's acceptance remarks.

And accepting the award for "Bridesmaids" as best comedy film, Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo deliver a funny, even fetching display of wrestling on the stage floor for custody of the single trophy. Now, THAT's comedy!

Presenter Tracy Morgan delivers a bombshell: He announces he's quitting show business, to join the party-hearty life of the U.S. Secret Service.

The sentimental highlight of the evening is seeing Don Rickles gratefully receive his trophy.

In rambling remarks that alternate between tender recollections of performers he reveres (notably Johnny Carson) intercut with his trademark insults, Rickles, who turns 86 on Tuesday, clinches his title as (in the words of Stewart) "the patron saint of comedy."

"I see many in the audience," he says tenderly, then hurls a zinger: "I realize tonight, I'm the biggest name here."

He's kidding, but he needn't be.

"The Comedy Awards" is a zesty who's who of jesters, supplemented by Andy Richter in the announcer's booth and The Roots as the robust house band.

And though Chris Rock marvels at the top of the evening, "They televise THIS—and they DON'T do the Nobel Peace Prize," it's no wonder. This is much funnier. Anything for a laugh!

Sarah Ferguson tried in absentia in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—The trial of Britain's Duchess of York for allegedly taking part in the secret filming of two orphanages in Turkey has been adjourned so the plaintiffs can evaluate a proposed out-of-court settlement, Turkey's state-run news agency said.

Sarah Ferguson faces charges of going "against the law in acquiring footage and violating privacy" of five children at one of the orphanages, the Anadolu Agency said. If convicted, she could receive a maximum sentence of 22 1/2 years in prison.

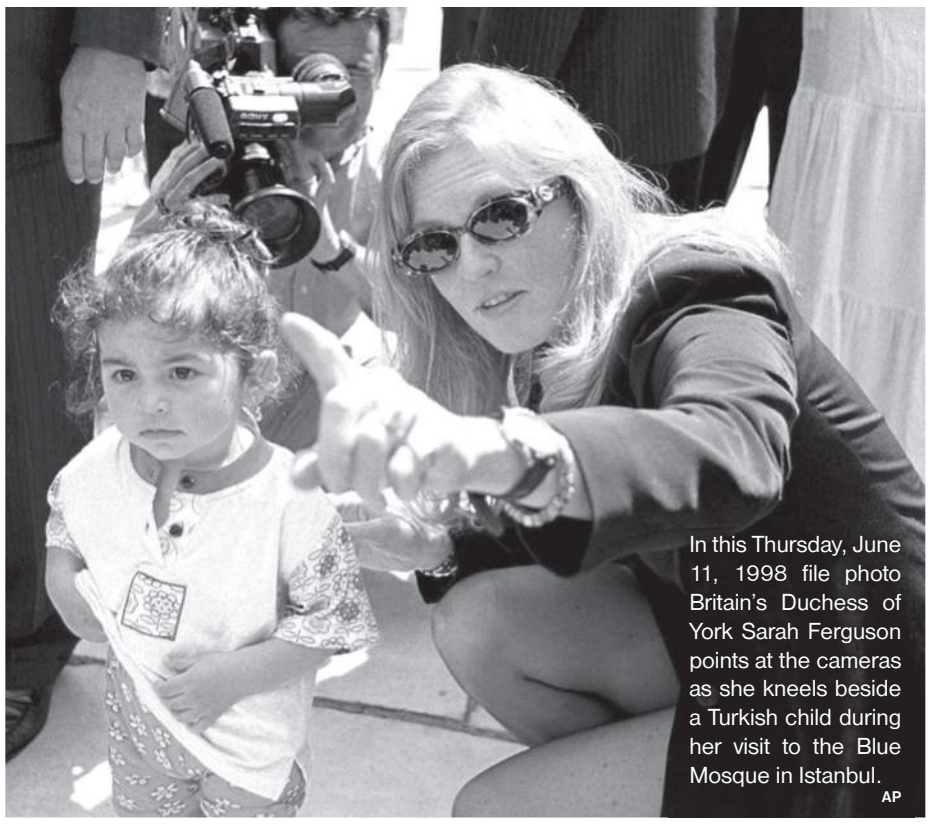
The trial began Friday, and Ferguson did not attend the opening session, the agency said.

Ferguson, the former wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, allegedly made an undercover trip to Turkey in 2008 during which she secretly visited the two state-run orphanages along with two British TV journalists. An indictment filed against Ferguson in January said the two journalists are being separately investigated.

The footage of the five children was filmed at the Saray Rehabilitation and Care Center orphanage on Sept. 22, 2008 near Ankara and shown that year on the British ITV program "Duchess and Daughters: Their Secret Mission." The filmed images appeared to show the children tied to their beds or left in cribs.

The government has accused the duchess of smearing Turkey's image, while saying at the same time that it would investigate and address any problems at the orphanages.

The news agency quoted her lawyer, Cansu Sahin, as saying the duchess is seeking an out-of-court settlement. On Friday, the court told Sahin that Ferguson should attend next hearing, Anadolu reported.



In this Thursday, June 11, 1998 file photo Britain's Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson points at the cameras as she kneels beside a Turkish child during her visit to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul. AP

Canan Yildiz, a lawyer representing the five children and Turkey's Family and Social Policies Ministry, said her clients have been "harmed" and would like to join the public prosecution against Ferguson and the two British journalists who have been also indicted in the case and could be tried separately.

The court agreed to hear testimony from the five children who were filmed, but Yildiz said some of them are mentally retarded and others are handicapped, and that it would have been better if their testimony was taken at the orphanage.

Anadolu did not say when the trial would resume, and the lawyers in the case could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

One reason the Ferguson case angered Turkey's government is that it emerged during the country's long-standing effort to become a member of the European Union, despite opposition from some EU states about issues such as human rights and free speech in Turkey.

Police found no evidence Lohan hit club manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan won't face prosecution over a nightclub manager's claims that the actress struck him with her sportscar due to lack of evidence and doubts about his credibility, prosecutors decided Friday.

Police had asked the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to review whether Lohan should be charged with leaving the scene of an accident, but the office determined there was insufficient evidence to pursue a case. Police interviewed the manager, reviewed surveillance footage and looked at Lohan's Porsche and found no evidence that an accident had occurred.

Thaer Kamal, manager of the Hookah Lounge in Hollywood, accused Lohan of striking him with her Porsche early on March 14, just two weeks before the actress' supervised probation ended. A charge evaluation worksheet noted that although Kamal called 911, he refused medical treatment at the scene and told police he had been grazed by Lohan's car along his right leg.

He refused to cooperate on follow-up interviews until roughly two weeks later, when he gave detectives a photo of a bruised left knee and appeared for the interview with his left knee bandaged, according to the prosecutor's summary.

"There is no direct evidence to show Lindsay Lohan or anyone else struck victim Kamal," Deputy District Attorney John Gilligan wrote. Victim Kamal's changed story and lack of cooperation with law enforcement make him a non-credible witness."

Kamal has been represented by attorney Mark Geragos, who did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Lohan's spokesman Steve Honig declined comment on the decision.

Lohan, 25, remains on informal probation for taking a necklace without permission last year and is attempting to revive her career. She will play Elizabeth Taylor in a television movie about the actress' love affair with co-star Richard Burton.

Madonna: Beastie Boys' Yauch was one of a kind

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna says Adam Yauch, the Beastie Boys rapper who died Friday, was one of a kind and that the group was important to her musical history.

The singer says the seminal hip-hop group was "integral to the musical revolution that was happening at the time."

Yauch's representatives confirmed that the rapper, also known as MCA, died Friday morning in New York after a nearly three-year battle with cancer.

Madonna says she was sad to hear of Yauch's death and asked God to bless his family.

The Beastie Boys opened for Madonna on tour in the 1980s, and the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last month.

AP

In this April 12, 2012, file photo, Madonna arrives at Macy's Herald Square in New York.

Books from Japan and Poland win translation awards

NEW YORK (AP)—A novel from Poland and a collection of Japanese poetry have received prizes for best translations.

Wieslaw Mysliwski's "Stone Upon Stone" was translated from Polish by Bill Johnson. It won in fiction for the Best Translated Book Award.

Kiwao Nomura's "Spectacle & Pigsty" was translated by Kyoko Yoshida and Forrest Gander. It won for poetry.

Winning authors and translators will divide $20,000 in prize money donated by Amazon.com.

The awards were announced Friday by Three Percent, an online resource for international literature based at the University of Rochester.

Gawker's 'Fox Mole' has a book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Fox Mole" has a book deal.

Joe Muto is a former Fox News associate producer who was fired last month after writing a few anonymous pieces for the news blog Gawker.

Muto has an agreement with Dutton for a memoir coming out in early 2013. The imprint of Penguin Group (USA) announced Friday that the book will be called "An Atheist in the Foxhole."

Muto worked at Fox for eight years, most recently on Bill O'Reilly's show. He has described himself as a liberal suffering amid conservative co-workers.

His first Gawker post included video of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney chatting with Sean Hannity. He also criticized a Fox website as "an unholy mashup of the Drudge Report, the Huffington Post and a Klan meeting."

The network has said it's exploring legal recourse against him.

Bride doesn't want families to take sides at wedding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm getting married soon. My mom says we should have one side of the church reserved for my fiance's friends and family, and one side for ours. I disagree. Not only does it make me feel like we would be separating people when the occasion should be about unity, but he doesn't have a whole lot of people coming. It could embarrass him if I have 100 guests on my side and he has 30 on his.

My fiance says he doesn't care, but I do! I want our guests blended in celebration of our union. Because Mom and Dad are paying half, I think Mom should have some input, but I don't feel right about her suggestion. What do you think?

UNITING, NOT DIVIDING

DEAR UNITING: I agree with your thinking. Although in the past brides' and grooms' guests were seated on opposite sides of the sanctuary, today the wedding "rules" have loosened considerably. While the bride's and groom's FAMILIES usually sit on opposite sides in areas marked for them by ribbons, if there is an imbalance in the number of guests such as you have described, an usher can correct it by seating the guests on both sides of the room without regard to who invited them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Why do people act like it's a disgrace for a son to be living with his mother? They don't have that attitude when it's a daughter. A lot of folks are without jobs right now, and I'm insulted that people feel the need to comment when sons move back home.

My house is paid for and my son is good company. He is not a complainer, we have a lot of the same interests, and he is constantly on the computer trying to find a job. I feel a lot safer now that he lives with me than I did living by myself, and I will miss him once he has found a job and moves out.

MOTHER OF A GOOD SON

DEAR MOTHER: Because many people are without jobs right now, many individuals—and entire families—are living under one roof. It has been this way since the Great Recession hit our economy, and a person would have to be living in a cave not to understand that it has been driven by necessity. I'm sad that people so often make comments without thinking about the effect they will have on the listener, but please don't take them personally. They are made out of ignorance.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I own five parrots, one of which is a Miligold Macaw. "Petie" is a young bird and starting to pick up words and sounds like crazy. Something he has started mimicking has my husband and me embarrassed and worried.

When we go into our bedroom, Petie starts making "amorous" sounds. Honestly, it sounds like someone is at the height of romantic passion in the living room where his cage is located.

Petie practices other words and sounds at various times during the day. We enjoy having people over to the house, and it's good for him to interact with them and be socialized. How should we handle the situation if he starts repeating the sounds of our bedroom activities when guests are over? Any suggestions?

DISCREET IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DISCREET: You could tell your guests that Petie likes to watch R-rated movies on premium cable. But don't be embarrassed that your bird has the sounds of pleasure to imitate. It would be worse if he were saying, "Not tonight; I have a headache."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

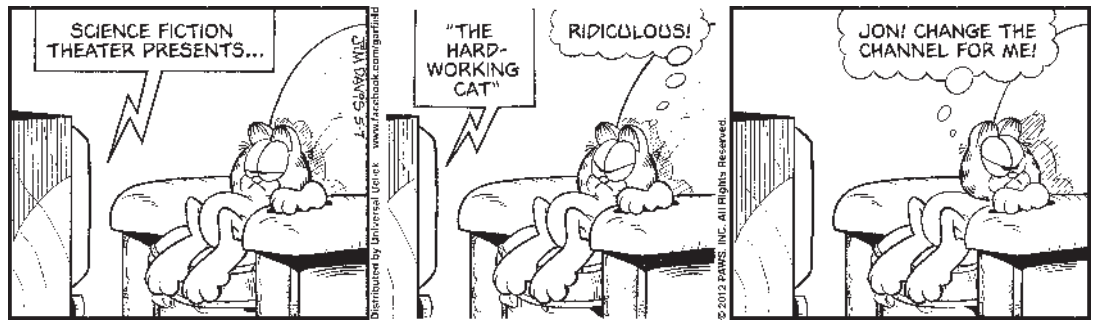
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY GUM HAS LOST ITS FLAVOR.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I DON'T SPIT IT OUT. I JUST ADD A NEW PIECE.
AFTER A FEW PACKS, IT'S LIKE CHEWING A BIG, SOGGY SOCK! MY JAWS ACHE AND I CAN'T CLOSE MY LIPS, SO I WHEEZE THROUGH MY OPEN MOUTH AND DROOL!
AN ORIFICE IS AN AMUSING THING. ALL RIGHT.
ITH FUNNY HOW YOU NEFFA THEE GWOWN-UPTH DO THITH.

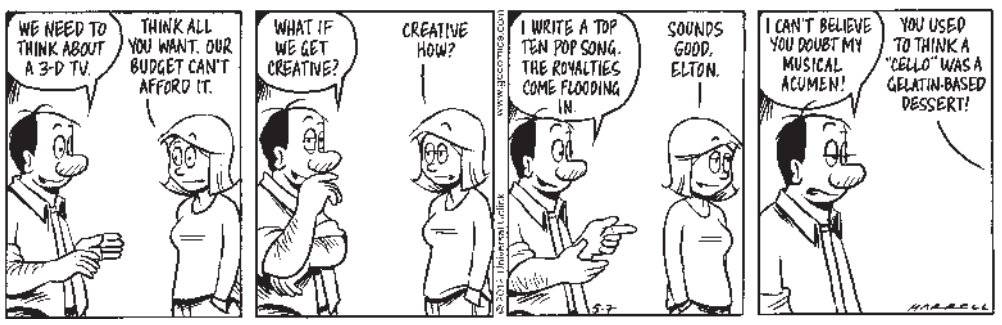
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT A 3-D TV.
THINK ALL YOU WANT. OUR BUDGET CAN'T AFFORD IT.
WHAT IF WE GET CREATIVE?
CREATIVE HOW?
I WRITE A TOP TEN POP SONG. THE ROYALTIES COME FLOODING IN.
SOUNDS GOOD, ELTON.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DOUBT MY MUSICAL ACUMEN!
YOU USED TO THINK A "CELLO" WAS A GELATIN-BASED DESSERT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

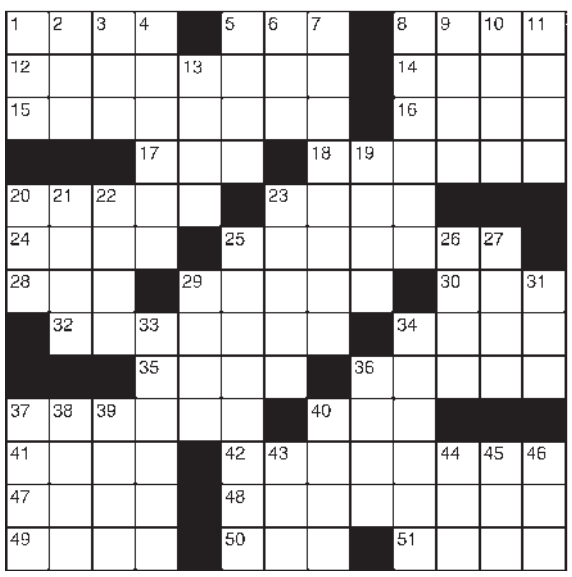
ACROSS
1 Pickle flavor
5 Collection
8 Lingerie items
12 Fragrant climbing plant
14 40-Across part
15 Outing for Neil Armstrong
16 Addict
17 Little louse
18 Mistakes in print
20 Confuse
23 Ignore
24 Not closed
25 Under-the-table flirtation
28 Golfer Michelle
29 A deadly sin
30 Wet dirt
32 Weather conditions
34 Challenge
35 Downs or Grant
36 Devilish sort
37 Armadas
40 Listener
41 Small bit
42 Henry Hudson's ship
47 Tea hour
48 Natural aptitude
49 Oklahoma city
50 Bakery buy
51 Third son

DOWN
1 Brit. mil. award
2 — Jima
3 Zodiac feline
4 One of the Beatles
5 Argument
6 Conger, for one
7 Pay heed
8 Book jacket quotes
9 Passenger Parks
10 Help a crook
11 Will be (Sp.)
13 Tiny branch
19 "The Sultan of Swat"
20 Arrow launcher
21 Grand-scale tale
22 Sense
23 Reality, old-style
25 Largest store in a chain
26 Mosque VIP
27 Continental coin
29 Pornography
31 Lair
33 "— It Through the Grapevine"
34 Skin
36 Crazy
37 Mini-flute?
38 Exemplar of craziness
39 Needle case
40 Otherwise
43 Blackbird
44 Individual
45 Autumn mo.
46 To the — degree

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	E	L	L	■	E	M	I	T	■	D	E	W
A	R	I	A	■	N	O	N	E	■	E	V	E
G	N	A	W	■	A	N	T	E	■	M	I	S
S	E	R	B	■	M	O	O	■	J	I	L	T
■	■	■	R	O	E	■	T	S	A	■	■	■
D	O	I	E	L	L	■	O	N	W	A	R	D
O	R	E	A	D	■	■	A	B	B	E	Y	■
T	A	L	K	I	E	■	M	I	R	A	G	E
■	■	■	E	E	L	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
D	E	A	R	■	A	P	R	■	A	I	D	S
O	A	R	■	S	P	A	T	■	K	N	O	W
E	S	T	■	E	S	P	Y	■	E	T	N	A
S	T	Y	■	W	E	A	R	■	R	O	S	Y

Saturday's answer 5-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Breckin Meyer, 38; Traci Lords, 44; Amy Heckerling, 58; Bill Kreutzmann, 66.

Happy Birthday: Consider your alternatives before you let anger prevail over smart problem solving. Things will fall into place if you are realistic and practical regarding what needs to be done and how you accomplish your goals. Don't leave anything to chance. This is not the year to live in a dream world. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 21, 24, 32, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotional deception will lead to an overdue decision. Don't fear making an impulsive move if it will help you put distance between you and someone or something that has been causing a financial or legal problem. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A carefree moment can lead to something out of the ordinary. Enjoy the moment, but don't overdo it. Balance will be necessary if you want to get the most out of an experience for the least amount of money, effort or debt. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Let your emotions lead the way. Don't become angry, but do express your likes and dislikes in order to get the results needed to move forward. A partnership can be your ticket to a better life or interesting new venture. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Focus on the task at hand. You won't win points talking about what you are supposed to do. Show a little enthusiasm and make an honest effort to outdo any competition you face. Embrace a challenge and make a good impression. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make a last-minute change. A new perspective will lift your spirits and motivate you to engage in a pursuit that can alter your life. Don't sit back; let your experience and knowledge lead you to the winner's circle. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will pick up valuable information from a seasoned colleague. You can push for what you want, but don't pressure someone or make demands that can lead to a lack of support or a falling-out with someone you need in your life. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take control and make things happen. Partnerships will thrive if you communicate and formulate what you want to see transpire. Short trips will inspire you to make a promise that will dictate how you proceed. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may not see eye-to-eye with someone you are in a relationship with. You can move forward if you are willing to compromise, making your everyday routine far more conducive to reaching your set goals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get angry. Be realistic and look at the statistics. Once you are fully aware of the consequences involved, you can make a move that will position you positively. Change is necessary and must not be put off. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on what you can do to secure your home, family and financial situation. Investment purchases or sales will be your ticket to a better future. Don't let an emotional matter come between you and your destination. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Good fortune will be yours if you put your effort into a plan that encourages securing a better future by utilizing your skills in a more diverse manner. Socializing will lead to a connection with someone who will help stabilize your life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional blackmail is prevalent. Whether you are applying or receiving pressure, it is important not to continue down such a destructive path. A remembered experience will help you get back on track and avoid making the same mistake. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent and never back down. You seek justice and fair play.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		1	2	7				
			9			3		6
		6					2	7
		7		9	5			
	2	3		6		9	1	
			8	3		4		
7	5					8		
6		8			1			
				5	8	6		9

Difficulty Level ★ 5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	2	7	3	8	6	1	5
8	5	7	9	6	1	2	3	4
3	1	6	4	2	5	7	9	8
7	8	9	1	4	2	5	6	3
5	2	3	8	9	6	4	7	1
1	6	4	5	7	3	8	2	9
9	7	8	2	1	4	3	5	6
6	4	1	3	5	7	9	8	2
2	3	5	6	8	9	1	4	7

Difficulty level ★★★★ 5/3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TANGLED WEEDS **Solution: 7 letters**

E	L	D	L	O	F	N	U	D	I	H	P	K	B	I
S	V	E	N	P	A	R	T	E	K	L	C	U	N	C
P	T	I	A	U	E	G	X	C	L	U	S	T	L	G
O	S	R	S	V	O	T	O	E	L	H	E	I	A	L
O	E	F	O	A	E	R	W	P	E	R	N	R	F	P
L	K	C	A	N	V	S	G	S	T	G	D	O	P	I
B	A	G	D	R	G	N	F	W	I	E	R	L	I	R
W	R	C	S	N	M	I	I	N	N	E	A	A	I	G
O	I	O	I	E	R	N	G	S	S	N	V	C	S	W
O	L	D	A	M	E	S	P	T	T	E	L	A	R	S
D	I	D	E	D	E	R	B	S	W	E	A	A	E	G
S	O	S	L	N	E	H	T	U	A	I	P	S	W	W
W	S	O	I	A	S	N	C	N	R	R	G	A	O	N
Y	H	V	D	E	G	R	O	W	T	H	G	S	R	N
T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T	W	I	S	T	E	D

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Broaden, Bushes, Chemical, Clean, Clinging, Cover, Drape, Extend, Farm, Firm, Forest, Garden, Grasp, Grass, Grip, Ground, Growth, Hold, Intertwined, Invasive, Lawn, Leaves, Loops, Meadow, Mesh, Messy, Patch, Plants, Pluck, Pull, Rakes, Rock, Season, Shrubs, Soil, Spread, Strong, Swell, Trap, Treatment, Trees, Twigs, Twisted, Unfold, Vines, Weave, Widen, Wild, Woods, Wrap

Last Saturday's Answer: Pullover

Enjoy THE COLLECTED WONDERWORDS, Volume 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 and SAVE! Just $15 (includes postage/handling) for the first book and $3 postage for the first book. Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Or order at uclick.com/store. (Canada/Foreign: $18 for first book, $5 postage.) Make checks payable to Universal Uclick.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

TRANSAMERICA (SAIPAN) CORPORATION
IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE (1)
- Must have extensive hardware store experience in a sales capacity
- Able to communicate well with customers like contractors and residential owners
- Knowledgeable in promoting hardware and construction materials
- Knowledgeable in Counterpoint POS software, Microsoft Office and being a computer literate is a plus factor
- Must have a reliable transportation to and from the workplace, have a valid driver's license
- Must be able to work through an 8-hour shift without interruption
- Must be able to lift and carry construction materials consistently
- Flexibility in handling other related work/tasks when the need arises is desired

DELIVERY TRUCK DRIVER (1)
- Able to handle and carry light to heavy equipments, construction and hardware materials like cement, rebar, gypsum board, lumbers, especially during loading and unloading
- Extensive experience and knowledge in construction and hardware products
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Flexible to handle other job assignments as needed
- Able to operate forklifts, boom trucks, flatbed trucks and other heavy equipments

Interested parties must bring in the ff. requirements:
1. Bio data or resumes
2. One (1) 2x2 size ID picture
3. Certificate of employments from previous employers
4. Other credentials, licenses needed by the job desired
5. Police Clearance

Location: Transamerica Hardware Store, TAC Bldg., Ground Flr., Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road or email us: tchumanresource@gmail.com

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Saipan Tribune

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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3 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom House Centrally Located in Garapan, equipped with a Water Tank, Air conditioners in every room, Nice, Safe, and Friendly Neighborhood.

NMHC applicants welcomed.
Please call 483-4611 for more information.

WHATZIT Solution: An open and shut case

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Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPUTY CLERK 1
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court, CNMI Judicial Branch
TINIAN and SAIPAN

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking **Deputy Clerk 1, Office of the Clerk of Court on the islands of TINIAN and SAIPAN.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances and be able to demonstrate eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be $20,485 per annum, commensurate with experience.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Supreme Court office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at: the Supreme Court office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

www.saipantribune.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-010

Opening Date: Tuesday, 4/13/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**.

SALARY: $60,000 to $90,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

(Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI, but not to exceed $15,000 for relocation to the NMI and not to exceed $5,000 for relocation away from the NMI)

POSITION(S): One.

CONTRACT: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil (or Environmental), Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in a water or wastewater utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office or the CUC Tinian Office or CUC Rota Office. Failure to provide the required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

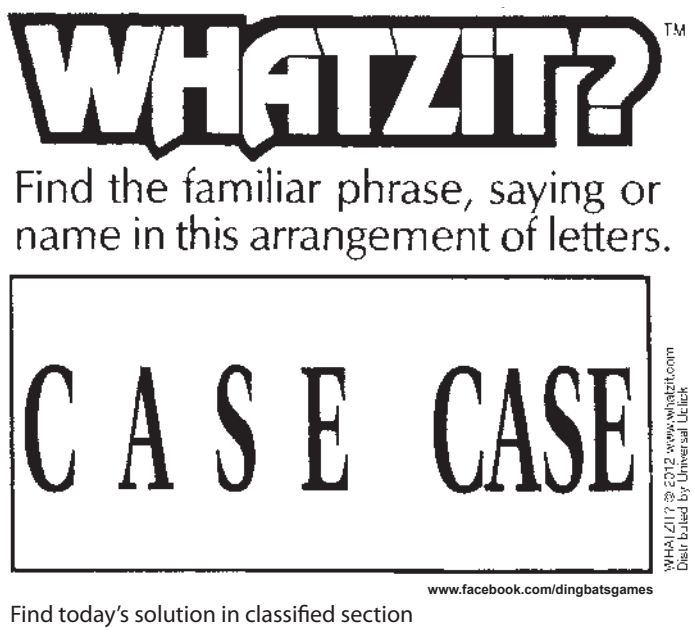
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
CASE CASE
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Thunder rally to complete 1st-round sweep of Mavs

DALLAS (AP)—Down by 13 points with less than 10 minutes remaining, youthful Oklahoma City could have easily have been content knowing they could go home for a Game 5 still needing to win only one more game.

The Thunder, with their 20-something All-Star duo Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, are instead going home to wait and see who they will play next.

And it was their other emerging star who led the way.

James Harden scored 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, including nine in a 12-0 run, and the Thunder rallied for a 103-97 victory Saturday night to complete a first-round series sweep of the defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks.

"I got into attack mode. I was determined to make plays," Harden said.

"He was phenomenal," said Durant, who scored 24 points. "His pick and roll game is unreal. It's fun to watch, fun to be part of. The best part about our team is that we have a lot of guys who can play off each other, and we complement each other well."

Dallas led 86-73 after Jason Terry hit a 3-pointer with 9:44 left before the Harden-fueled surge over 3 minutes when the only other score was a 3-poitner by Durant.

Oklahoma City finally took the lead, and kept it, after Westbrook stole the ball from Dirk Nowitzki and passed to Serge Ibaka for a two-handed slam that made it 92-91 with 5:17 left.

"This goes without saying, I'm excited we won the series," coach Scott Brooks said. "James had an incredible game. We ran pick and rolls at the angles. ... He was making plays for himself or our shooters."

Durant had 11 rebounds, while Westbrook and Fisher had 12 points each.

Oklahoma City plays the winner of the series between the Los Angeles Lakers and Denver. The Lakers lead that first-round series 2-1 going into Game 4 on Sunday night in Denver.

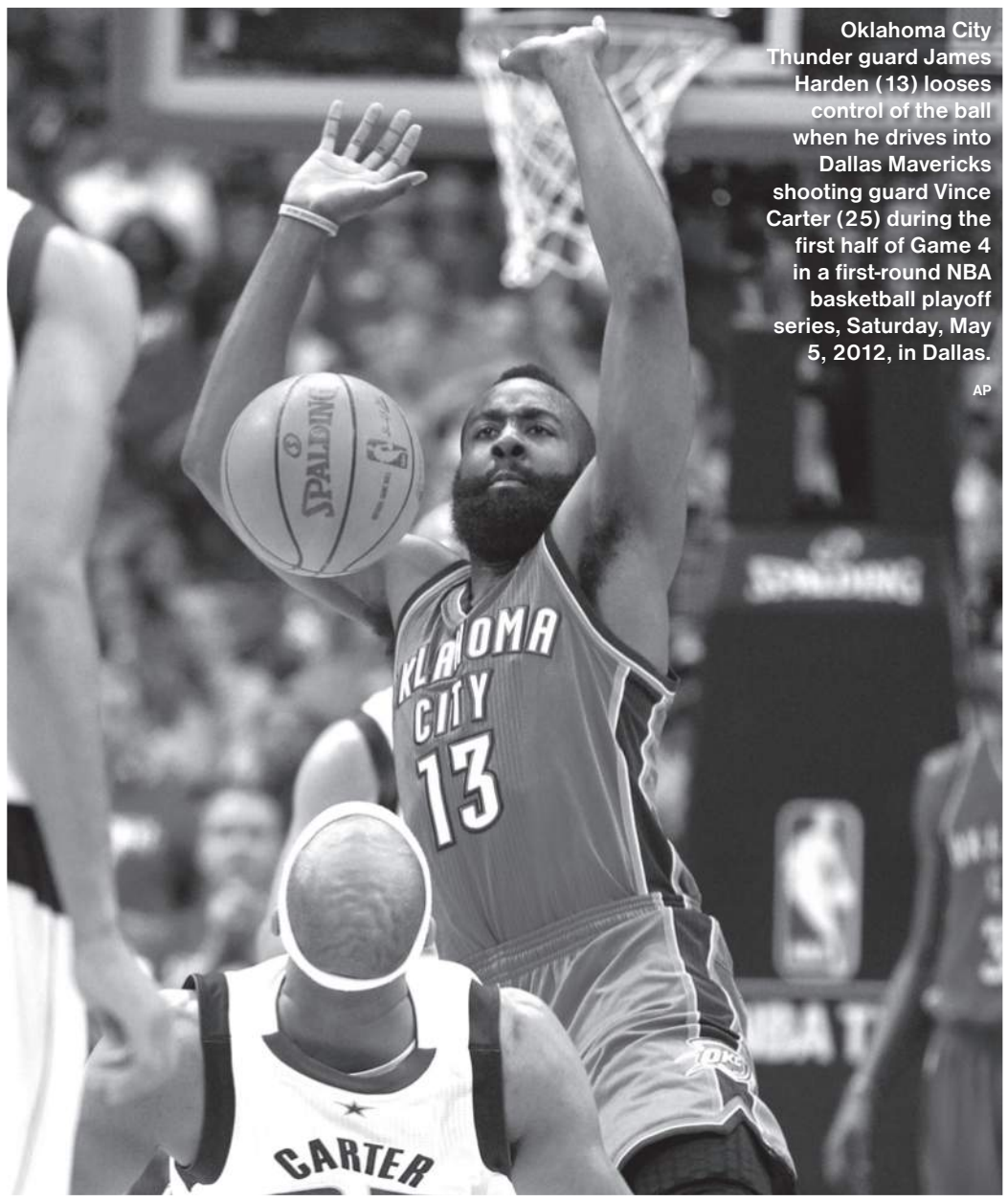
It was the first four-game postseason sweep for the Oklahoma City franchise since 1996, when they were still the Seattle SuperSonics and swept the Houston Rockets in the second round.

Dallas is the second defending champion in five years to be swept in the first round. Miami lost in four games to Chicago in 2007, after beating the Mavericks in the 2006 NBA Finals.

Dallas had never been swept in a best-of-seven series. And the Mavericks hadn't lost four playoff games in a row since 2006 against the Heat.

But now they are the oldest team in the NBA, and vastly changed from last year's championship squad.

"It was an up and down year," said Nowitzki, the 11-time All-Star who had 34 points. "We weren't consistent enough throughout to be an elite team."



Oklahoma City Thunder guard James Harden (13) looses control of the ball when he drives into Dallas Mavericks shooting guard Vince Carter (25) during the first half of Game 4 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday, May 5, 2012, in Dallas.

AP

Even when Harden bobbled the ball after Oklahoma City took the lead for good, Fisher ended up with it and drove for a layup to make it 96-91. Fisher, a late-season addition to the young Thunder, won five NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Nowitzki then had a shot that hit the rim a couple of times before falling out, among several near misses for him down the stretch.

"If you want to be an elite team in this league, you got to have two or three guys who can go off at any time," Nowitzki said. "I just thought they had more weapons than us."

Oklahoma City finished off the Mavs without starting center Kendrick Perkins, who left the game with 4:09 left in the first quarter with a right hip strain. He had two rebounds, two assists and missed his only shot in his 8 minutes.

Jason Kidd, the Mavericks' 39-year-old point guard, had 16 points and eight assists. Jason Terry had 11 points in what might have also been his last game in Dallas.

After Terry's 3-pointer, Harden scored seven in a row—on a three-point play and two other baskets. Durant then made a 3-pointer. After Nowitzki was short on a 14-footer, Harden drove for a powerful two-handed slam that got the Thunder within 86-85.

"He got up a head of steam and was great," said Rick Carlisle, the Mavs coach whose four-year contract is up. "We tried everything, five or six different coverages going. We needed to be better but it was more about how good he was."

Clippers 87, Grizzlies 86

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 24 points and 11 assists, and high-flying Blake Griffin added 17 points for Los Angeles, which beat Memphis only after Rudy Gay missed a jumper just before the buzzer.

The Clippers won their first home playoff game in six seasons to take a 2-1 series lead.

Paul hit a fadeaway jumper with 2:02 left for an 82-80 lead. On the next possession he had a no-look bounce pass to Griffin coming in off the baseline for a monster slam.

Trailing 86-80 after two free throws by Paul, Gay hit a 3-pointer with 12.9 seconds left, Memphis' first field goal since 7:10. After Los Angeles missed three of four free throws, Gay hit another 3-pointer with 8.9 seconds.

Pacers 101, Magic 99, OT

In Orlando, Florida, George Hill hit a pair of free throws with 2.2 seconds left in overtime as Indiana beat Orlando to take a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference series.

The Pacers won after squandering a 19-point lead in the fourth quarter. Orlando had a final chance to tie it in the closing seconds, but Glen Davis' fade away jumper bounced off the side of the rim.

David West scored 26 points, including 12 in the third quarter and four in overtime, for Indiana. Danny Granger added 21 points. Jason Richardson led Orlando with 25 points, and Davis had 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Spurs 102, Jazz 90

In Salt Lake City, Tony Parker scored 27 points, including 16 in the fourth quarter as San Antonio beat Utah to take a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference series.

No NBA team has ever overcome an 0-3 deficit to win a best-of-seven series. The Spurs can close it out Monday night in Salt Lake City.

Al Jefferson and Devin Harris scored 21 apiece for Utah, while Derrick Favors added 15 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks in his most extensive action of the series.

I'll Have Another rallies to win Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—I'll Have Another looked like just another horse at the Kentucky Derby.

Until the final furlong, that is.

That's when the chestnut colt—sold for a paltry $11,000, ridden by a rookie jockey hardly anyone knew and stuck in an outside post—blazed past highly regarded Bodemeister to win by 1 1-2 lengths on Saturday, beating one of the deepest fields in years.

I'll Have Another stormed out of post No. 19—the first winner from there in 138 runnings of the Derby—and bided his time back in mid-pack while Bodemeister set a blistering pace on a muggy, 85-degree afternoon at Churchill Downs.

"He's an amazing horse. I kept telling everybody, from the first time I met him, I knew he was the one. I knew he was good," jockey Mario Gutierrez said. "I said in an interview, even if they allowed me to pick from the whole rest of the field, I would have stayed with him, 100 percent, no doubt about it."

Making his Derby debut at 25, Gutierrez got his chance to ride I'll Have Another after trainer Doug O'Neill and owner J. Paul Reddam happened to see him at Santa Anita in Southern California.

"I don't know if he won or not, but he really looked good in the irons to me," said Reddam, who owns CashCall, a lending company in Anaheim, Calif. "I said, `We need to try some new blood.'"

It was another chapter in Gutierrez's unusual route to the Derby winner's circle. He followed in his father's footsteps as a jockey, getting on quarterhorses in Veracruz, Mexico, at 14. After a stint in Canada, he eventually started getting noticed on the West Coast, especially after winning the Santa Anita Derby last month.

"Top trainers, top owners, of course, they're not going to know anything about me," he said.

Still, Gutierrez was largely a mystery to the record crowd of 165,307, who didn't know 15-1 shot I'll Have Another or the jockey had the right stuff until the 20-horse field turned for home. That's when Gutierrez, who moved up between horses around the final turn, positioned his colt not far from the rail and set him down to run.

"I know my horse was reaching every single step of the way, but I wasn't going to stop riding until I was passing the wire," he said. "That is when the horse race is finished."

I'll Have Another overhauled a tiring Bodemeister to win by 1 1-2 lengths. He paid $32.60, $13.80 and $9. He ran 1 1-4 miles in 2:01.83.

Bodemeister, trained by three-time Derby winner Bob Baffert, was second and returned $6.20 and $5.60 as the 4-1 favorite. Dullahan was a neck back in third and paid $7.20 to show.

O'Neill didn't waste any time vowing that I'll Have Another will go on to the Preakness in two weeks.

"Maryland, here we come, baby!" he said.

They'll go to Pimlico as one of the favorites as a result of I'll Have Another's Derby win and his catchy name. It has nothing to do with alcohol; it's Reddam's response to his wife's nightly query of "Do you want any more cookies?" as he lounges on the couch.

It's an offer the portly Reddam rarely refuses.

I'll Have Another made his way to the starting gate accompanied by his stable pony, Lava Man, another cheap purchase turned into a career winner of more than $5 million by O'Neill. The trainer has made his name predominantly in Southern California, although he's won three Breeders' Cup races.

One of his best horses, Steviewonderboy, was the winter favorite for the 2006 Derby before being sidelined by injuries early that year.

"When you tell people you're in the horse racing game, they ask you, `Have you won the Kentucky Derby?'" O'Neill said. "Now I can say, `Yes, I have, 2012.'"

A hot pace was anticipated from speedster Trinniberg, although, surprisingly, it was Bodemeister under jockey Mike Smith who bolted to the front and forced Trinniberg to take a backseat. In the late afternoon heat, Bodemeister set impossibly fast fractions. He ran the opening quarter-mile in 22.32 seconds and the half-mile in 45.39.

"I told Mike, `Look, if he breaks great and feels like running, we can win it," said Baffert, who was hospitalized just five weeks ago following a heart attack in Dubai. "That's the only time I've run second where I've been happy because he ran his race."

Meanwhile, I'll Have Another was comfortably galloping along behind the speedsters. Gutierrez angled his colt clear on the final turn and took dead-aim at Bodemeister, who was clearly in front at the top of the stretch.

"I knew we were in trouble when I saw Doug's horse coming," said Smith, who won the Derby with 50-1 shot Giacomo in 2005.

Union Rags, the 5-1 second choice, never had a chance. He got pinched at the start and was trapped between rivals. Gemologist, the 8-1 third choice, lost for the first time in six starts, finishing 16th.

Hansen, the Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner and 2-year-old champion, faded to ninth.

Went the Day Well finished fourth, followed by Creative Cause and Liaison.

Rousing Sermon was eighth. Daddy Nose Best was 10th, followed by Optimizer, Alpha, El Padrino, Done Talking and Sabercat. Trinniberg was 17th, followed by Prospective, Take Charge Indy and Daddy Long Legs, who was last.

Rangers top Indians 5-2 in 11 innings

CLEVELAND (AP)—Pinch-hitter Adrian Beltre hit a three-run homer in the 11th inning to lift the Texas Rangers over the Cleveland Indians on Saturday.

Beltre didn't start for the fourth straight game due to a tender hamstring, but he hit a 1-0 pitch from Joe Smith (1-1) over the center-field wall for his fifth homer, snapping the Rangers' three-game losing streak.

Alexi Ogando (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Joe Nathan worked the 11th for his seventh save in eight tries.

Asdrubal Cabrera had four hits for Cleveland, which had its three-game winning streak stopped.

AP

Texas Rangers' Alberto Gonzalez, back, lifts the helmet off Adrian Beltre after Beltre hit a three-run home run off Cleveland Indians' Joe Smith in the 11th inning in a baseball game, Saturday, May 5, 2012, in Cleveland.

Orioles 8, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer and Jason Hammel continued his strong start this season as Baltimore extended Boston's recent home struggles.

Adam Jones added a two-run homer for Baltimore, which won its 10th in the last 12 games, and Hammel (4-1) held the Red Sox scoreless until he gave up two runs in the seventh.

White Sox 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Adam Dunn hit a two-run homer deep into the right-field seats off Jose Valverde in the ninth inning to lift Chicago over Detroit.

Dunn hit a 422-foot drive off Valverde (2-1) for his eighth homer this season and Paul Konerko also went deep for the White Sox.

Nate Jones (1-0) got the win and Addison Reed came on to strike out Austin Jackson with runners on second and third for the final out. It was Reed's first career save.

Royals 5, Yankees 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Felipe Paulino came off the disabled list to toss six shutout innings and Billy Butler drove in three runs as Kansas City beat New York.

Paulino (1-0) retired 11 straight to start the game and did not allow a ball out of the infield until Raul Ibanez singled with one out in the fifth. Paulino gave up only four hits and walked two while striking out six in his first start of the season.

Butler doubled in the first and again in the fifth, each time driving in Alex Gordon, who matched a career high with four hits. Gordon also drove in a run with a double in the sixth.

Athletics 4, Rays 3, 12 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jonny Gomes hit a go-ahead home run in the 12th inning to lifted Oakland over his former team Tampa Bay.

Gomes, who spent six seasons with Tampa Bay from 2003-08, hit his fifth home run of the season off reliever Joel Peralta (0-1) to stop the Rays' six-game winning streak.

Carlos Pena, Ben Zobrist and Elliot Johnson all homered as Tampa Bay rallied to bail out Jeremy Hellickson after an ineffective start. But the Rays fell to 13-2 at home and failed in their bid to become the first major league team to reach 20 wins this season.

Angels 6, Blue Jays 2

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout and Mark Trumbo homered, and C.J. Wilson pitched effectively through eight innings as Los Angeles bounced back from consecutive shutout losses against Toronto to beat the Blue Jays with slumping slugger Albert Pujols on the bench.

Wilson (4-2) allowed two runs and six hits, including Adam Lind's leadoff homer in the seventh, and struck out nine. Kyle Drabek (2-3) was charged with five runs, eight hits and five walks in five-plus innings.

Mariners 7, Twins 0

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez and Steve Delabar combined on a one-hitter as Seattle shut out struggling Minnesota.

Kyle Seager homered and drove in four runs to pace the Mariners. Ichiro Suzuki added a two-run triple.

Denard Span had the only hit for the Twins, a roller through the right side in the fourth.

Hernandez (3-1) struck out nine and walked two in eight innings. His ERA dropped to 1.89. Delabar pitched a perfect ninth.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 3

In New York, Johan Santana won for the first time in 20 months, finally getting some run support from his teammates, as the New York Mets beat the Arizona Diamondbacks to snap a four-game losing streak.

Mike Nickeas and Andres Torres each hit a two-run single to back Santana, who toughed out seven innings for his first victory since the two-time Cy Young pitching award winner had shoulder surgery in September 2010. Daniel Murphy went 4 for 4 for the Mets.

Nationals 7, Phillies 1

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez allowed one run over seven innings as Washington hit a season-high three home runs in the win over Philadelphia.

Jayson Werth hit a three-run drive, Chad Tracy connected with a man on and Ian Desmond had a solo shot for the Nationals, who have won seven straight over the Phillies dating to last year.

Dodgers 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Chris Capuano threw seven shutout innings and drove in two runs to lead Los Angeles past Chicago.

Capuano (4-0) held Chicago to three hits and struck out seven, extending his scoreless innings streak to 18 2-3. His two-run double in the second gave him his first RBIs since Aug. 24, 2007.

Giants 5, Brewers 2

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner shut down Milwaukee for seven innings and added an RBI double to win his eighth straight home start as San Francisco snapped a four-game skid.

Buster Posey and Brett Pill added RBI hits in a three-run sixth inning against Randy Wolf to give Bumgarner (5-1) all the support he needed.

Astros 8, Cardinals 2

In Houston, Chris Johnson hit his first career grand slam and Bud Norris continued his dominance of St. Louis as Houston won its fifth straight for the first time since late 2010.

Jed Lowrie added a two-run home run for the Astros, who hadn't won five straight since Aug. 22-26, 2010.

Norris (2-1) limited the Cardinals to one unearned run on three hits over six innings to improve to 7-2 in 11 career starts against them.

Pirates 3, Reds 2

In Pittsburgh, Neil Walker hit his first home run since September and James McDonald put together another strong start to lead Pittsburgh over Cincinnati.

Alex Presley also homered for Pittsburgh and Joel Hanrahan worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save in relief of McDonald (2-1), who gave up one run and six hits in 6 1-3 innings. He walked two and struck out seven.

Braves 13, Rockies 9

In Denver, Chipper Jones had three hits and matched a career high with five RBIs as Atlanta overcame a grand slam by Michael Cuddyer to beat Colorado.

Matt Diaz and Jason Heyward hit back-to-back home runs to help the Braves overtake the Rockies after trailing 6-0 and 8-3. Atlanta scored 10 runs from the sixth inning on and benefited from sloppy defense by the Rockies, who committed four errors in a game that included a 69-minute rain delay in the eighth.

Marlins 4, Padres 1

In San Diego, Mark Buehrle threw a five-hitter and pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs singled in the go-ahead run to lift Miami over San Diego for its season-high fifth straight victory.

With a bullpen depleted due to overuse recently and closer Heath Bell getting demoted, Miami manager Ozzie Guillen was counting on Buehrle to pitch deep in the game, and he delivered.

Simpson emerges with lead at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—For someone playing so close to his house, Webb Simpson has been on edge all week.

The home crowd. Two rounds with Tiger Woods. His name atop the leaderboard at Quail Hollow alongside Rory McIlroy and so many others late Saturday afternoon. It has caused him to try extra hard to block everything out except the shot in front of him.

So far, it has worked better than he imagined.

Simpson broke out of a five-way tie for the lead with a 12-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, and a 3-under 69 gave him a one-shot lead over Ryan Moore and D.A. Points going into the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship.

"It seems like when guys on this level do get nervous, it seems like every time they focus a little better, they just tighten up their thoughts a lot better," Simpson said. "Seems like when I'm more nervous, for the most part, I play better. It's not a good thing when we get comfortable out there because you start getting lazy and losing focus on your target."

This is no time to relax.

Ten players were separated by four shots going into Sunday on a course where anything can happen. Two years ago, McIlroy made the cut on the number, closed with a course-record 62 and won.

This time, McIlroy goes into the final round only two shots behind and playing better each day. He can go back to No. 1 in the world by finishing seventh, although what matters more is that trophy. He was among seven players who had a share of the lead at some point during the warm afternoon before he fell back with a three-putt bogey on the 16th and had to settle for a 66.

"I definitely feel like I've left a couple out there," McIlroy said. "A 66 is a good score out there, and I feel like I've got another one of those scores in me, and looking forward to doing that tomorrow."

Simpson was at 14-under 202.

Moore, penalized one shot Friday when his ball moved right before tapping in a 10-inch putt, had his first bogey-free round in 14 months and shot 68. Points, whose lone win came with Bill Murray as his partner at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am last year, shot a 69.

McIlroy was joined at 204 by Nick Watney, the 36-hole leader who missed three birdie chances inside 15 feet on the back nine and finished his day by driving into the creek left of the 18th fairway and working hard for a bogey. He had a 72.

Rickie Fowler (67) and Stewart Cink, who took four putts from the front of the 18th green for a double bogey and a 71, were three shots behind.

The tone was set early, and the tournament became interesting late.

Phil Mickelson ran off four straight birdies on the back nine playing with Lee Westwood, though both had to settle for a 68 and wound up nine shots behind. Geoff Ogilvy had a 65 and thought he might need another one to have a chance. He finished right after the leaders teed off, and when the wind kicked up in the afternoon, the course played more difficult. Ogilvy was only four shots back.

Simpson has the crowd on his side, and it wasn't hard to figure out. Watney blasted a beautiful drive on the par-5 15th, followed by a fairway metal into the wind to the fringe for a two-putt birdie and a share of the lead. Walking off the green, he looked back at the crowd clapping wildly for Simpson making birdie to join him atop the leaderboard.

"It's like playing with Phil," Watney said. "Visiting team."

Watney wasn't at all bitter about this. After all, he is staying with Simpson this week. They have a deal that low score takes out the garbage, a chore that falls to Watney.

McIlroy went 66-62 when he won the Wells Fargo two years ago. He was only six back going into the third round, and he said his task would be easier. He was joking, but he might have been right.

It already was going to be a good weekend. McIlroy went to dinner Friday night to celebrate his 23rd birthday, and he got quite a surprise when his parents, Gerry and Rose, flew up from Florida to join him. Then, McIlroy birdied his opening three holes and kept right on going.

He was particularly strong at the end of his round, ripping a drive 344 yards into the wind on the 15th that left him a 4-iron to the green. McIlroy didn't care how far his drive went. He was more concerned with the leaderboard, and he liked what he saw.

The question is whether anyone else was paying attention.

"I hope so," McIlroy said. "I'm not so sure. The guys that are at the top of the leaderboard are really accomplished players, and I'm just one of a bunch of guys that can go out and win there tomorrow. But maybe. Maybe if they see my name on the leaderboard, they might start to think about it a little bit more."

Forfeits mar MISO soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's high school boys soccer season resulted in a foursome of forfeits last week

The season, however, is expected to resume as scheduled today at 4:30pm with the Marianas High School Dolphins (4-3 win-loss record) taking on Northern Marianas Academy-Marianas Baptist Academy (0-5-0 win-loss-draw) at the Hopwood Middle School Field in Chalan Piao.

Last Monday, MHS was awarded the win over a short-handed SIS squad, while SSHS received the same favor over an understaffed NMA-MBA crew.

Then on Friday, KHS was gifted a forfeit victory over a six-man NMA-MBA roster, while the SSHS Manta Rays had already conceded the second match to MHS in advance because many of its players were also members of the Manta Ray Band, which was participating in a fundraiser event that afternoon.

Although NMA-MBA has forfeited its last two matches, the season is expected to continue as scheduled today with NMA-MBA facing a Dolphins team that lost its most recent official contest to the Kagman High School Ayuyus (3-3-1), 1-4, back on April 27.

Then the Saipan International School Geckos (3-2-0) will challenge the Ayuyus at 4:30pm tomorrow, while NMA/MBA is set to square off against SIS at 4:30pm on Thursday; both games will also be held on Hopwood Field.

Then on Friday the top ranked and defending champion SSHS Manta Rays (5-1-1) collide with MHS at 4:30pm on Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex and the final game of the season takes place next Monday at 4:30pm between SIS and SSHS on Hopwood Field.

MISO's double-elimination postseason tournament is scheduled for May 18 and May 19 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Tinian High School may appear this year as the automatic third seed in the competition, however MISO organizers are still awaiting confirmation.

COMETS

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the whole way, but were stood up with the bases loaded in their final stand.

In addition, the Pacific Amusement Rays defeated the JPO-DPS Dare Program-Enforcers, 10-7, in the consolation battle for third place. The Rays moved around six runs in the top of the sixth inning to go ahead, 10-6, and held strong for the win.

The Comets advanced over the Rays, 4-3, in Saturday's semifinals, while the Falcons overcame the Enforcers, 6-5, with a clutch four-run rally in the last inning of their semis match.

Comets 3, Falcons 1

The Falcons' very first batter, Nick Pangelinan, made it on and touched all four in the first inning, but that was the only offense Comets pitcher Erik Cruz would allow to the plate for the rest of his watch.

Meanwhile, Falcons hurler Kekuni Kaainoa also delivered a strong showing and stranded three Comets runners in the first two innings to help preserve the early lead.

After walking three batters in the opening frame, Comets' Cruz settled down on the mound and tallied his sixth strikeout to close the bottom part of the second inning.

The Comets then started the third frame at the top of its order and its leadoff man, league batting champ Aurel Mendiola, started things off with a triple and scampered home during the play off an error to knot it at 1 apiece.

Later in the inning, Ethan Babauta cracked a base hit and was moved over to third base off a double by Erik Cruz. Babuata went on to score the go-ahead run off an ensuing error in right field.

The Falcons were not able to reach second base in either of the next two innings, but Kaainoa kept them in range from the hump through the fourth by leaving their opponents with a runner at third base.

The Comets were rejuvenated after all-star pitcher Cruz notched his 13th strikeout to close the fifth inning and mustered an insurance run for the cause in the bottom portion.

Vincent Taman singled and was moved to third base off a double by Babauta before being driven to the plate by Cruz, of all people.

Cruz exceeded his pitch limit coming into the sixth inning and Babauta was tapped to close the last three outs. It was a tough assignment for the big lefty who quickly found himself staring at the bases loaded with only one out.

Babauta took a minute to find the strike zone, but he gathered himself under pressure and went on to bag two big strikeouts for the win.

Winning pitcher Cruz gave up one unearned run off one hit and six walks with 13 strikeouts through five innings.

He batted 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Mendiola and Babauta also both swung 2-for-3 with a run apiece.

Rays 10, Enforcers 7

The Rays' top of the order pulled in front, 4-2, in the fifth inning off four hits after both teams managed two runs earlier in the third inning.

Ramnes Karben led off with a single and was brought home by Manuel Celis and Jay Kalen scored off an error after reaching with a double.

The Enforcers answered, however, with four runs off a couple of hits and help from some errors to assume control, 6-4, in the bottom frame.

Joaquin Saralu belted a triple and scored off a wild pitch, and Kier Agda drew a walk and was singled in by Shakobe Rangamar; Korey Leon also scored off an error.

Rays countered once again in the top of the sixth inning and gashed the Enforcers with six runs off six hits.

Manny Esefon and Joeny Villagomez reached on a bean ball and a base hit, which set up a two-RBI triple for Karben.

Karben was then doubled home by Celis, and Kalen kept it going with an RBI single.

Nathaniel Torres stepped in next and brought Kalen to the dish with a triple and Nnes Siech drove him home with a base rip before the Enforcers could escape the inning.

Rays' Tony Deleon Guerrero came to the mound in relief for Jester Kintaro with one out in the fifth inning and he contained the Enforcers to just one run in the final stand. Rays led it, 4-3, at the time.

Winning pitcher Kintaro gave up one earned run off three hits and four walks with eight strikeouts through 4 1/3 innings.

Kalen batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs. Celis swung 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs, while Torres went 3-for-3 with an RBI, a run, and a base on ball.

MAYWEATHER

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Two judges scored the fight 117-111 and the third had it 118-110. The Associated Press had Mayweather winning 116-112.

Fighting just a few weeks before he enters a county jail to serve a three-month sentence for domestic abuse, Mayweather found himself in a tough fight against a game opponent who never stopped moving forward. But he was faster and more accurate than Cotto and seemed to wear him down in the final rounds.

In the last round, Mayweather landed his best punch of the night, a left uppercut that seemed to hurt Cotto. He followed that with several flurries to the head to wrap up a decision that until the later rounds had been in doubt.

The decision was roundly booed by the crowd at the MGM Grand arena, which cheered wildly every time Cotto landed a punch.

"He's a tough competitor," Mayweather said. "He came to fight, he didn't just come to survive. I dug down and fought him back."

Cotto was never down, though he seemed hurt several times during the fight, particularly in the 12th round.

"The judges said I lost the fight, I can't do anything else," Cotto said. "I'm happy with my fight and performance and so is my family. I can't ask for anything else."

Mayweather, who was guaranteed $32 million, was forced to fight every minute of all 12 rounds against the Puerto Rican champion. He did it after weighing in at 151 pounds, the heaviest he has ever been for a fight.

The weight didn't seem to affect Mayweather, and neither did the heavier 10-ounce gloves at super welterweight. But he took some punishment, including a bloody nose during the middle rounds, before coming back to dish some out in the later rounds.

"When you fight on pay-per-view you have to give the fans what they want, and that's excitement," Mayweather said.

Mayweather entered the ring unbeaten in his 16-year pro career, and a 6-1 favorite to stay that way. The fighter who has become the biggest pay-per-view attraction in the sport padded his already thick wallet with the fight, but he was forced to earn every penny of it.

The win gave Mayweather the 154-pound title held by Cotto, and assured him of still being a champion when he reports to jail June 1 for a sentence stemming from a domestic abuse case involving his former girlfriend and their children.

"In life there's obstacles," Mayweather said. "When it comes to June 1, I have to accept it like a man."

Mayweather will be in jail when Manny Pacquiao fights in the same ring June 9 at the MGM Grand against Timothy Bradley. Though boxing fans have clamored for a Mayweather-Pacquiao fight, it has yet to be made—and may never be made.

That's partly because of Mayweather's insistence that Pacquiao submit to Olympic-style drug testing, though Pacquiao has already said he will do that.

"I want to fight Pacquiao but he needs to take the tests before we make that fight," Mayweather said.

Cotto came out looking slow and overmatched in the first round, but quickly settled into a routine, attacking Mayweather from behind his left jab. But Mayweather got more aggressive coming out to start the fourth round, and landed a series of rights to the head that stunned Cotto and kept him from moving forward effectively.

Mayweather fought good portions of the fight on the ropes, using them for leverage and counterpunching to Cotto's head when he opened up. He was not only quicker than Cotto, but more accurate, often landing in between Cotto's defenses.

"He's ready to quit," trainer Roger Mayweather told his nephew after the sixth round.

But Cotto was relentless, coming forward and hitting Mayweather with good shots to the head. Toward the end of the eighth round he landed several punches to the head, prompting Mayweather to shake his head as if they didn't hurt, but by then Mayweather was bleeding from the nose and looked like he had taken some punishment.

Punch stats showed Mayweather landing 179 of 687 punches to 105 of 506 to Cotto.

Cotto, who fell to 37-3, was guaranteed his biggest purse ever, $8 million.

ESCAPEES

From Page 28

swam with daughter Jennifer and grandson R.J.

Carol Lynn, an SSC masters swimmer, and Jennifer, who used to swim for SSC, both finished in a time of 1:09:22, while R.J. came in ahead of them in 1:09:16:68.

It also marked the first time that SSC head coach Mike Villagomez's two sons—Michael and Mikhail—joined the Escape.

With their father guiding them in, Michael and Mikhail successfully completed the cross channel swim in 1:00:07:31 and 1:03:45:17, respectively.

SSC coaches Mieko Carey and Gary de Guzman also took part in the swim to accompany their younger wards.

Speaking of young swimmers, 6-year-olds Jinnosuke Suzuki (50:36:63) and Kento's brother, Taiyo (1:03:59:31), also gamely took on the Escape.

Not really a straight-up competition, organizers of the Escape allowed participants to sport swims aids such as fins, buoys, and paddles.

The 42 swimmers that took part in Saturday's crossing were supported by 12 kayakers, namely Dennis Chapala, Judy Hawkins, Jun Lee, Brian Beardon, Derek Chambers, Selly Kremer, Yogi Singh, Aric Bickle, Ann Jordan, Ron Wright, Steve Beyer, and Steve Johnson.

SSC would also like to thank their multitude of sponsors. They are Docomo Pacific, Coca Cola, DFS Galleria, Law Offices of Joshua Berger, Pacific Islands Club, McDonald's, Marianas Eye Institute, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The club also extended its gratitude to the *Sun Rider*, captained by Donn Dunlap, and the *Sea Spray*, captained by Fred Nose, for transporting the swimmers to Managaha Island and Jeff Elliott for providing the buoy used for sighting and Lewie Tenorio for designing the 2012 Escape from Mangaha T-shirt.

SSC acknowledged as well the volunteers and family members who provided refreshments and were on site to help and cheer participants of the event.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	19	9	.679	—
Baltimore	18	9	.667	1/2
Toronto	16	12	.571	3
New York	14	13	.519	4 1/2
Boston	11	15	.423	7

Central Division

Cleveland	14	11	.560	—
Detroit	13	13	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	13	14	.481	2
Kansas City	9	17	.346	5 1/2
Minnesota	7	19	.269	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	18	9	.667	—
Oakland	14	14	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	12	17	.414	7
Los Angeles	11	17	.393	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	18	9	.667	—
Atlanta	17	11	.607	1 1/2
New York	14	13	.519	4
Miami	13	14	.481	5
Philadelphia	13	15	.464	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	16	11	.593	—
Cincinnati	13	13	.500	2 1/2
Houston	13	14	.481	3
Milwaukee	12	15	.444	4
Pittsburgh	12	15	.444	4
Chicago	10	17	.370	6

West Division

Los Angeles	18	9	.667	—
Arizona	14	14	.500	4 1/2
San Francisco	13	14	.481	5
Colorado	12	14	.462	5 1/2
San Diego	9	19	.321	9 1/2

WELLS FARGO SCORES

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)— Scores Saturday from the Wells Fargo Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,469-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Club Course:

THIRD ROUND

Webb Simpson	65-68-69	–202
Ryan Moore	65-70-68	–203
D.A. Points	66-68-69	–203
Rory McIlroy	70-68-66	–204
Nick Watney	68-64-72	–204
Rickie Fowler	66-72-67	–205
Stewart Cink	65-69-71	–205
Geoff Ogilvy	71-70-65	–206
George McNeill	70-68-68	–206
John Senden	66-68-72	–206
Ben Crane	70-64-73	–207
Jonas Blixt	68-73-67	–208
Richard H. Lee	70-69-69	–208
Seung-Yul Noh	68-70-70	–208
Robert Garrigus	69-72-68	–209
Patrick Reed	66-74-69	–209
Brian Davis	66-74-69	–209
Tommy Gainey	68-72-69	–209
Jason Day	70-70-69	–209
Jeff Overton	68-71-70	–209
David Toms	74-65-70	–209
Martin Flores	68-70-71	–209
Tom Gillis	73-68-69	–210
Sean O'Hair	72-69-69	–210
Camilo Villegas	71-70-69	–210
James Driscoll	71-70-69	–210
Spencer Levin	72-68-70	–210
Ben Curtis	69-70-71	–210
Jonathan Byrd	69-69-72	–210
Phil Mickelson	71-72-68	–211
Lee Westwood	71-72-68	–211
Kyle Reifers	70-72-69	–211
Martin Laird	72-70-69	–211
J.B. Holmes	71-71-69	–211
Carl Pettersson	69-72-70	–211
Sung Kang	71-70-70	–211
Billy Mayfair	67-71-73	–211
Robert Karlsson	71-67-73	–211
Johnson Wagner	71-66-74	–211
Heath Slocum	69-67-75	–211
Hunter Haas	68-68-75	–211
Kevin Stadler	68-74-70	–212
Brendon de Jonge	67-73-72	–212
Roberto Castro	68-72-72	–212
John Merrick	70-68-74	–212
Rocco Mediate	68-69-75	–212
Arjun Atwal	68-69-75	–212
Will Claxton	71-72-70	–213
Troy Matteson	74-69-70	–213
Cameron Tringale	69-74-70	–213
Josh Teater	69-73-71	–213
Jim Furyk	71-71-71	–213
J.J. Henry	73-69-71	–213
Brian Harman	67-74-72	–213
Ryuji Imada	69-72-72	–213
Kevin Chappell	72-71-71	–214
Brendan Steele	71-72-71	–214
Dicky Pride	69-72-73	–214
Andres Romero	70-71-73	–214
Chad Campbell	72-71-72	–215
Ken Duke	72-71-72	–215
Jimmy Walker	69-73-73	–215
Chris Kirk	75-67-73	–215
Brandt Jobe	72-70-73	–215
Sang-Moon Bae	69-69-77	–215
Alexandre Rocha	68-75-73	–216
Marc Leishman	75-67-74	–216
Hunter Mahan	73-68-75	–216
Gary Christian	73-70-74	–217
Aaron Baddeley	69-73-75	–217
Gavin Coles	72-71-75	–218
David Hearn	70-72-76	–218
Zach Johnson	70-71-77	–218
Harris English	70-72-77	–219

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

3-peats galore in high school caging

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Completing a string of three championships has become a norm in the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League.

Just last April 27, both the Grace Christian Academy Eagles and the Saipan International School Lady Geckos made history by winning their third consecutive titles in the COPSSA caging.

The Eagles made the mother of all comebacks, rallying from as much as an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to shock Mt. Carmel School, 69-68, in the one-game boys varsity championship at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

In the first game of the finals, doubleheader, SIS extended its reign in the girls varsity division with a thrilling 31-30 win over Grace Christian Academy .

The CNMI U14 National Football Team, meanwhile, last week returned to a hero's welcome from their very successful stint in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China

Despite having the youngest football federation and smallest in terms of population in the AFC, the Commonwealth finished with a 2-5-2 win-loss-draw record.

The CNMI beat Chinese-Taipei, 2-0, and Macau, 1-0. It also forced draws against host China, 1-1, and Mongolia, 2-2.

It did lose five games, twice to Guam (2-0 and 4-0), once against South Korea (2-0), and were thoroughly beaten by AFC powerhouses Japan (18-0) and North Korea (9-0).

Last April 28 and 29 also saw the start of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships with 28 singles and doubles matches going down at both the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

Games in the Saipan Little League, Saipan Major League, Chamolinian Softball Assocation, and Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association soccer also continued last week.

JOE AUTHER

CNMI U14 National Football Team's Dakota Hall tries to keep the soccer ball away from a number of Japanese defenders during their game in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China.

JOE AUTHER

Ryu Tanzawa (3) and John Masga (15) of the CNMI U14 National Football Team defends against Japan during their game in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Karlo De Leon dribbles past a Mt. Carmel School defender during their title game in the COPSSA boys varsity caging last April 27 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's James Libut elevates for a fastbreak layup against Mt. Carmel School defenders during their title game in the COPSSA boys varsity caging last April 27 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Amy Hudkins dribbles toward their front court during their title game against Grace Christian Academy in the COPSSA girls varsity caging last April 27 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Rays second baseman Nathaniel Torres throws to first base against the As Matuis Twins during their Saipan Little League's Major Division playoff game held last April 29 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Rays' Manuel Celis cranks up for a swing against As Matuis Twins during their Saipan Little League's Major Division playoff game last April 29 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Keanah Deleon Guerrero gets a good jump off second base against Marianas High School during their MISO girls fast-pitch softball game last Wednesday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Comets crowned Majors champions

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets were crowned Saipan Little League's 2012 Major Division champions after defeating the Natibu Sports Association Talaabwogh Falcons, 3-1, yesterday afternoon at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Comets capped off their championship campaign after steamrolling through the regular season undefeated.

The team is made up of Christopher Achas, Ethan Babauta, Edmund Cruz, Erik Cruz, Austin Hocog, Austin Indalecio, Rejay Iskawa, Aurel Mendiola, Kody Rabauliman, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Tryique Wally, Vincent Taman, and Norman Villagomez with manager Greg Camacho and coaches Patrick Mendiola, Antonio Camacho, and McGregory Camacho.

In Sunday's finals, Comets pitcher Erik Cruz came out on the topside of a pitching duel against Falcons' Kekuni Kaainoa.

Cruz's teammate Ethan Babauta then held it together to close out the last inning. The Falcons remained in the fight

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets flash the No. 1 sign after winning the championship of the 2012 Saipan Little League Major Division, 3-1, over the Natibu Sports Association Talaabwogh Falcons yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Mayweather wins unanimous decision over Cotto

AP

Floyd Mayweather Jr., right, throws punches at Miguel Cotto Jr. during a WBA super welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 5, 2012, in Las Vegas.

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

BOXING

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. finally found himself in a real fight, complete with a bloody nose and an opponent in Miguel Cotto who was never going to quit.

As usual, he found a way to win.

Mayweather used his speed and accuracy Saturday night to take a unanimous decision over a game Cotto in a bruising bout to win a piece of the 154-pound title. But it wasn't easy, as Cotto landed some hard punches and kept attacking all the way to the final bell.

"You're a hell of a champion," Mayweather told Cotto in the ring afterward. "You're the toughest guy I ever fought."

Mayweather dominated late, rocking Cotto in the 12th round to pull out a win and remain unbeaten in 43 fights. Unlike most of his fights, though, Mayweather got his nose bloodied and engaged in some bruising exchanges he usually likes to avoid.

See MAYWEATHER on Page 26

42 'Escapees' bolt Managaha Island

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Victoria Chentsova beat fellow Saipan Swim Club senior swimmer Kento Akimaru in last Saturday's 9th Annual Escape from Managaha.

Chentsova reached the American Memorial Park in 38:09.10 minutes to narrowly beat last year's winner Akimaru who registered a time of 38:09.31.

Chentsova and Akimaru led 42 swimmers—ranging in age from 6 to 60—that "escaped" the tourist hotspot by swimming the 2.4-kilometer channel between Managaha Island and AMP's Micro Beach.

Along the way, Chentsova, Akimaru, and company were able to sample Saipan's abundant marine life from beneath the waves, ogling sea turtles, manta rays, and assortment of fish during perfect weather conditions.

Akimaru, who won the 2011 edition in a time 40:04.21, even got a glimpse of an unexploded World War II bomb some 14 minutes into the swim.

Chentsova also bettered her 40:05.35 from last year when she finished second to Akimaru.

San Francisco masters swimmer Ed Ewing and former University of Southern California water polo player Jeff El-Hajj gave the SSC duo stiff competition as they emerged from the surf in 38:19.41 and 38:41:38, respectively.

The 2012 Escape from Mangaha Island was also a special bonding time for three generations of Pierces, as Carol Lynn

See ESCAPEES on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Participants, organizers, and volunteers of the 9th Annual Escape from Managaha last Saturday pose for a group photo at American Memorial Park's Micro Beach with a breathtaking view of Managaha Island on the background.